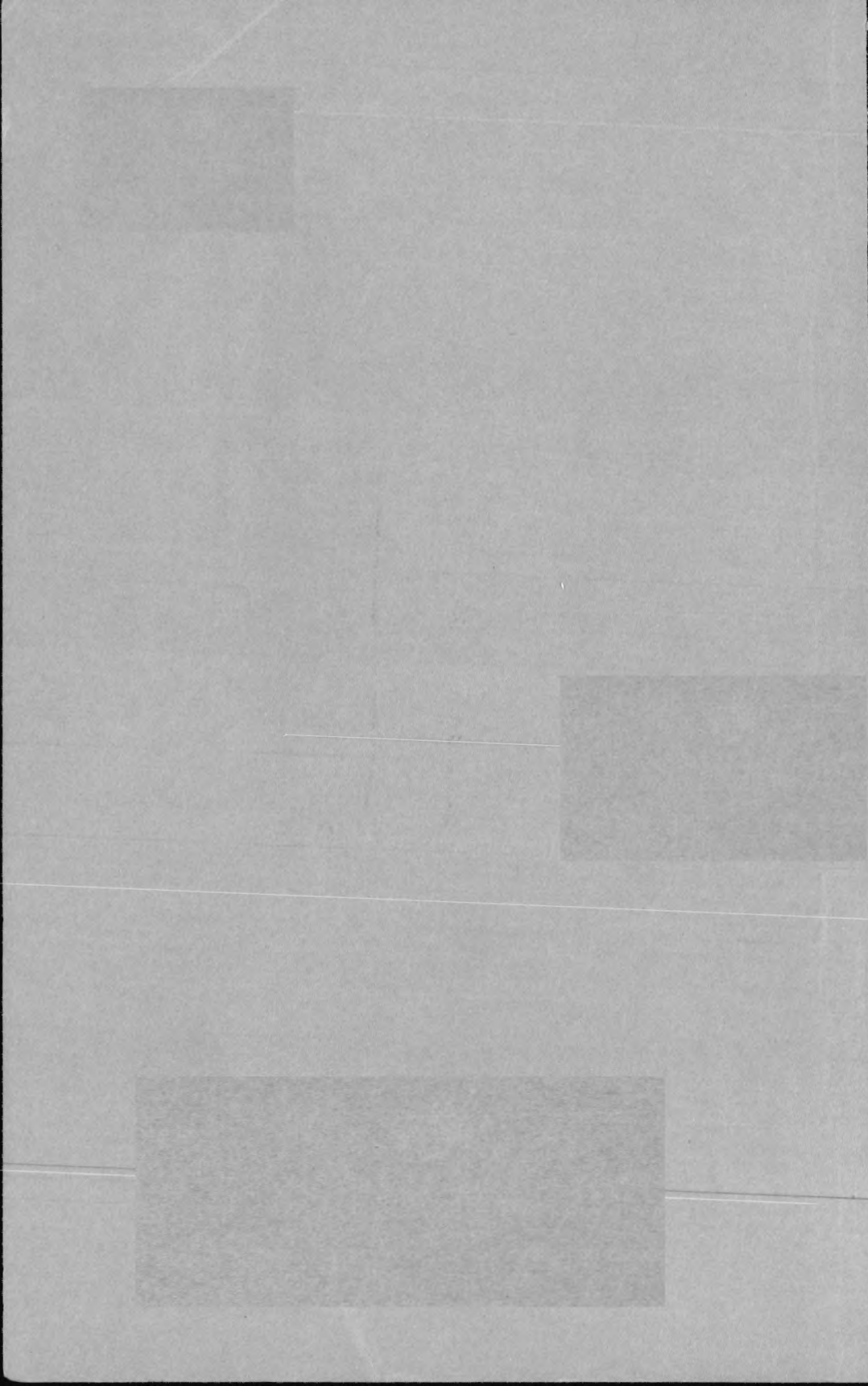




# **THE BELL FAMILY IN DUMFRIESSHIRE**



**By James Steuart**



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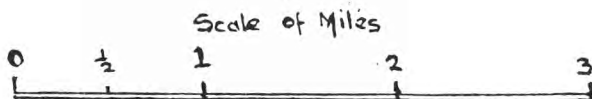


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Kirkconnel  
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# SKETCH MAP OF MIDDLEBIE PARISH





THE BELL FAMILY IN DUMFRIESSHIRE



# **The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire**

By  
James Steuart  
Writer to The Signet

Scotpress  
Morgantown, West Virginia  
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### Foreword to the 1984 Reprint

We owe to ourselves, to our country, and to posterity the duty of collecting and publishing such information and records concerning the Bells as may become available. Pride in family history should be encouraged and fostered, for it tends to strengthen our moral obligation, elevate our individual character, and broaden our patriotism.

William H. Bell, President  
Clan Bell Descendents







## PREFACE.

A FEW words of explanation are required as to the origin and object of the following pages. They began with the intention of recording a pedigree of my maternal ancestors, the Bells of Crurie, offshoots of the Bells of Crowdieknowe, the basis being copies of the inscriptions in the old churchyard at Carruthers made by my uncle, the late Mr Richard Bell of Crurie. These were supplemented by records of that noted local antiquarian, the late Mr T. J. Carlyle of Waterbeck, courteously placed at my disposal by his nephew, Mr T. R. Carlyle. My original purpose was thus expanded, and I was invited to submit a paper on the Bell family to the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. This paper again overflowed its confines and, from the length of the notes, it was resolved to publish them in the present form.

The collection of these notes has occupied several years, but they are of necessity far from complete or consecutive. I have been singularly unfortunate, in almost all cases, in tracing progresses of titles of the various estates or reliable pedigrees of the different branches of the families. These pages, however, contain much information not hitherto gathered together, and the facts now collected may serve as a foundation for anyone desiring to construct a pedigree or history of a particular family. With this object in view I have recorded details which, to the unthinking, may appear unnecessary.

In my self-imposed task I have to thank many kind friends, and have been aided and abetted in countless ways by that distinguished antiquarian, Mr R. C. Reid of Cleughbrae.

The present work can only be regarded as a draft of what such a book should be. It naturally must include many mistakes and errors of deduction, but those who can improve on the contents are invited to submit criticisms and facts, with the possibility of noting corrections in a paper in the proceedings of the local Antiquarian Society at some later date.

To quote the end of the inscription on the tombstone of Jocky Bell o' Braikenbrow, hereafter set forth :—

“ If you done better in your time than I did in mine,  
Take the stane aff my wame and lay it on o' thine.”

JAMES STEUART.

25 Rutland Street,  
Edinburgh, November, 1932.



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# THE BELL FAMILY

## IN DUMFRIESSHIRE.

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“THIS parish has been long celebrated for its families of the name of Bell—so much so that the Bells of Middlebie became a common expression in Dumfriesshire; and many most celebrated individuals of this name, in various departments of society, may be traced to an original connection with our parochial district. These families have mostly now become extinct in the parish; but the prevalence of their name in a former age is testified by the figure of a *bell* found on a great proportion of our gravestones.”

Thus wrote the Rev. Richard Nivison, minister of the parish of Middlebie, in the year 1835, in the *Statistical Account*, and his words may serve as text for the following pages; for it is a curious fact that a tract of country extending to about forty square miles should have first been occupied by a clan bearing one name, various members of which race later became the proprietors of most of the acres in the district. After the lapse of about a century these proprietors gradually parted with their possessions, and this process continued so persistently that at the present day there is no proprietor of the name of Bell in Middlebie Parish, except in the case of the estate of Torbeckhill.

The present parish of that name consists of the three parishes of Middlebie, Pennersax, and Carruthers, which were united in 1609 (Acts Parl. IV., 441).

Being inhabitants of the district which was the cock-pit in the feuds between the English and the Scots, the Bells naturally, for the mere necessity of existence, had to take their part in the struggles of the time.

The mass of the people—as distinguished from the great proprietors who lived in peel towers for protection—dwelt in hovels liable at any moment to be destroyed either by the English or by the occupants themselves with a view to leaving the district bare for the invaders. Having no home comforts, always on the alert, a race was bred, hardy, brave, but cruel;

consequently these Scottish Borderers were a sad trial to the Crowns of both Scotland and England and those entrusted with the government or attempts at government on the marches. The records of the time bear witness to the constant turmoil between opposing nations, chiefs, and individuals. The causes of these disturbances may roughly be grouped into those due to national rivalries between the Scots and English, to the necessity of an impoverished people having to seek for the means of sustaining themselves by forcibly possessing themselves of the movable goods of those dwelling south of the Debatable Land, to reprisals by the English, and to punitive expeditions. But in addition to these factors there were the local troubles consequent upon the jealousies of the great overlords in Annandale, feuds between different clans, and also the fact that many of the questions of civil right were not decided by the Courts but by the disputants taking the law into their own hands. In a country in such a state, fighting, attacks on property and person, woundings and murder were of constant occurrence.

The attempts at "policing" the marches were varied but generally futile. In addition to the drastic remedy of hanging, outstanding members of a clan were held as hostages for the others. These pledges were put in the custody of unfortunate landowners in the centre of Scotland, from whom they invariably escaped, rendering the custodians liable in monetary payments. The local magnates were made responsible by bonds for the good behaviour of their followers, but these leaders were generally as guilty as their retinue. In the time of James VI. the landed men of Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles bound themselves not to reset, harbour, or intercommoun with the thieves inhabiting Liddisdale, Eskdale, Ewisdale, and Annandale—including all persons of the name of Bell and utheris notorious thevis thair wyffis, bairnis, tenentis, and servandis (R.P.C., Vol. I., 653).

In 1569 Christie Bell of the Lands entered pledge for the hail Bells of Middiway, the Laird of Drumlanrig and William Bell of Albie being his cautioners. The pledge for the Bellis of the Water of Milk was David Bell, called the Young King (R.P.C. II. 50).

In 1596 thirty-seven hostages were taken from every division of the clans, including the Bells. (*Caledonia*, III., 112). And here it may be noted that the family were not con-

fined to Scotland, and in particular there was in 1597 a large colony of Bells who were customary tenants of the Crown at Gillsland in Cumberland, the number being estimated at 500, which was probably an exaggerated figure. (*Cal. Border Papers*, II., 454.)

The Bell family undoubtedly for centuries were classed among the other Border clans as raiders, thieves, and broken men, and it might be thought unlikely that respectable citizens of the present day would be desirous to include in their pedigree such notorious criminals. It must, however, be remembered that these "rude forefathers" were the victims of circumstances. They were trained in a school of adversity, and their deeds of daring, sung in the Border Minstrelsy and now surrounded with a romantic halo, were essential elements in forming and moulding the characters for which the Borderers are celebrated.

With these facts in view, I have endeavoured to collect together a number of scattered entries regarding the Dumfriesshire Bells.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

All antiquarian work in Dumfriesshire must be difficult, from the fact that many of the local records are incomplete, which is not a matter for surprise when one considers the unsettled state of the district for centuries. Even if reference is made to the foundation stone of most pedigrees, the *Register of the Great Seal* (herein indicated by the letters *R.M.S.*), difficulty in ascertaining the ownership of large tracts of Annandale at particular dates is encountered, and as regards the smaller lairds it is practically silent, as none of them held lands under Charters direct from the Crown. Investigation reveals the fact that though in various instances members of the Bell family were described as "of" particular lands, it was not until the middle of the seventeenth century that they obtained formal charters from the great overlords of Annandale. As has been otherwise stated, prior to that time they were under patriarchal chiefs rather than feudal superiors. All traces of these earlier deeds have in many cases been lost, and the enquirer has perforce to turn to the pages of the *General Register of Sasines* from 1652 or the *Particular Register of Sasines for Dumfriesshire*, etc., from its

start in 1617, for such information afforded as to the Sasines following upon the Charters and Dispositions. These Registers at the Register House, Edinburgh, are referred to as *G.R.S.* and *P.R.S.*; and to help in tracing a particular writ I have, where possible, indicated the volume and page. Many of these deeds had been noted by that local antiquary, Mr Thomas Johnston Carlyle of Waterbeck, who died in 1893, aged 83.

For the century prior to the commencement of the formal relations of superior and vassal and the starting of the Sasine Registers about 1617, the printed *Register of the Privy Council* (quoted as *R.P.C.*), begun in 1545, is a mine of information, especially in the case of the turbulent dwellers on the Borders who were so frequently hailed before that tribunal.

Mention must also be made of the *Register of Deeds*, which can be referred to at the Register House, and for a time kept in three parallel series by the principal clerks—Durie, Dalrymple, and Mackenzie; also to the *Register of Dumfries Testaments*, to which there is a printed index.

I am particularly indebted to the notes of Mr T. J. Carlyle of the names and dates on tombstones in the various churchyards in Middlebie Parish, and to the like good offices, as regards those at the old Carruthers ground, under the hand of my late uncle, Mr Richard Bell of Crurie. I have also seen excerpts from the Parish Registers, which, however, did not begin until most of the Bells had ceased to be landowners in Annandale. I have seen various scattered titles, but have failed to trace many more consequent upon the breaking up of the larger properties.

These notes are obviously fragmentary and incomplete, but this preliminary spade work may help others who have time and opportunity to delve deeper, and who desire to complete pedigrees of particular families.

When a parish is inhabited by a clan of one surname sharing in a paucity of Christian names, the task of the pedigree-hunter is a difficult one; and, except incidentally, I have not attempted to trace the links between tenants as distinguished from lairds.

At this stage mention may be made of *Memorials of the Clan of the Bells*, privately printed at Capetown in 1864 by, it is said, Charles Davidson Bell, Surveyor-General, Cape of Good Hope, and bears to be from a manuscript "in the Library of the last Bell of Rammerscales." Mr R. C. Reid



has seen the manuscript at Rammerscales and reports that it is in handwriting of about 1750, and this is confirmed by the fact that it mentions the recent sale of Blackethouse, which took place in 1734. These *Memorials* and the manuscript are hereinafter referred to as the *Rammerscales Memorials*, but the statements are so vague and unauthenticated by authorities as to be of little use in tracing the family history.

### EARLY HISTORY.

It appears now impossible to ascertain when the Bells first got a footing in Dumfriesshire. The theory is propounded in the *Rammerscales Memorials* that the Bells of Kirkconnel were of French extraction, and that, in the reign of King Robert II., William Le Bile came to Scotland with the Earl of Douglas when he returned from an embassy to France in 1374. Even if that statement be correct as regards the Kirkconnel family, there were Bells in Scotland long before that date. The *Ragman Roll* of 1296 mentions Bells in Berwick-on-Tweed, and in the early thirteen-hundreds they had spread to Edinburgh, St. Andrews, and Dundee. In 1304 there were certain proceedings regarding "Our Lady's Tofts" in Dumfries, formerly belonging to Gilbert le fitz Bel, and in the same year Thomas Bell served on an investigation; while in 1335 John and William Bell were deprived of lands in the county for adherence to David II. (Bain's *Calendar of Papers re Scotland*, II., 1526, 1588, III., p. 318.)

The Bells held Kirkconnell from 1426 till about 1550, and before the end of the fifteenth century there were colonies of Bells in Pennersax, while others owned lands in the Barony of Cockpool and in Corrie, and possessed Poldean and Laverhay in Wamphray.

Bells owned Albie from at least 1459. Jok of Albie was apparently a man of importance, and though Albie itself was a small place, he or his immediate descendants held Blackethouse, Torbeckhill, Dockenflat, and Dirrops.

One of his numerous sons, Will of Blackethouse, known as "Red Cloak," was the recognised leader of the clan between 1578 and 1623. Rany of Godsbrig, who flourished about 1600, was probably a brother of "Red Cloak," and his descendants, known as of Godsbrig or Scotsbrig, were well-

known landholders, one of whom in 1732 acquired Blackethouse from a member of that family. Contemporaneously with these two branches there were Bells in part of Middlebie Estate, Neuk, Clynt, and on the Water of Milk.

History does not state the connection of the Bells of Crowdieknowe with the other houses mentioned above, but they were settled in an extensive stretch of country in Carruthers Parish about 1500, and held the property for 250 years. From that branch the families of Minsca and Torbeckhill in Middlebie, and of Crurie in Eskdalemuir, hived off—these properties, in the case of Torbeckhill and Crurie, being still held by their descendants.

Stockbriggs was possessed by the grandfather of the grantees of the first Charters in 1649, but there is nothing to show of which family he was a cadet.

The scattered facts collected in these pages must impress upon the thoughtful reader the changes which took place in the manners and customs of the inhabitants of Annandale in the period between 1545, when the *Register of the Privy Council* begins, and, say, the end of the eighteenth century, when most of the Middlebie Bells had parted with their lands. The earlier chapters depict a state of lawlessness impossible effectually to curb, and deeds of violence and brutality which no romance can palliate. The first signs of settlement of the district may be discerned about 1650, when the great overlords began to grant regular feudal Charters to their followers, who up to that date, although bearing territorial designations, had been actually tenants as distinguished from vassals. Synchronising with the formal constitution of the relations of superior and vassal, there is evidence of money being comparatively plentiful—as money was reckoned in these days. The new lairds were able to lend money to one another or to their superiors, and the granting of many bonds and wadsets are recorded in these notes for what must then have been considered large sums. Where the cash came from it is difficult to surmise, for any tillage could only barely have met immediate local wants, and it is not easy to imagine any extensive trade in cattle with England before the settlement of the Borders was effected. Further evidence of financial prosperity is proved by the Marriage Contracts entered into shortly after 1650, for if annuities to widows were made dependent on the rent of lands, the bride was provided by

her father with a dower involving the provision of hard cash. Lawyers plied their profession, and prepared deeds and conducted arbitrations, and there are various references to Notaries who actually lived in the rural districts far from towns. The troubles of the Covenanting times resulted in heavy fines being imposed in the case of Godsbrig (£1000), Albie (£1000), and Crowdieknowe (£600), and if these were actually paid it must have had a serious crippling effect on the financial position of those having to bear them.

It is not generally recognised that for about a century after the feu charters were first granted the lands were possessed run-rig or in common, and the different properties were not enclosed within a ring fence as at present. 'The rigs possessed by one proprietor were interjected among those held by others, and it was not until about 1750 that the different properties were laid out in Processes of Division, in the course of which the rigs were allocated and definite marches determined, and the countryside was plotted out as we now know it. Thereafter the Commonities possessed in common were divided by other legal proceedings, and shares were allotted to the heritors who had held rights of grazing, these shares being added to the respective estates already defined. During this transition period the vassal was known as, say, "of Scotsbrig," and occupied a tower or house of some pretensions, while his brothers or other relatives dwelt in cottages near and were designed as "in Scotsbrig," and tilled a certain proportion of the run-rig lands or grazed stock on the Commonities.

Further evidence of increasing settlement is afforded by the erection of tombs and aisles, in some cases embellished with coats-of-arms. Thus the tombstones of the Albie family (in 1700), of Neuk (1712), and Scotsbrig (1715) bear three bells (*Dumfries Antiquarian Society*, 1912-13, p. 108); and on the stone at Carruthers, erected by Richard Bell of Crurie to his wife, Christian Graham, who died in 1794, there are attempts to impale the arms of Graham of Shaw on those of Bell, and verses extolling the virtues of the deceased are cut on the stone.

## TRADITIONS.

Before settling down to deal with the pedigrees of the different families, we must note certain heroes of tradition.

In the churchyard of the parish of Reidkirk or Graitney,

## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

now washed away by the Solway, there appear to have been two Bell tombs. One stone, legible in 1816, bore :—

“ Here lyeth IO . . N BELL who died in ye yhere MDX  
and of hys age LXXX yheres.

Here bluidy Bell, baith skin and bane,  
Lies quietly still aneath this stane ;  
He was a stark moss-trooper kent,  
As ever drave a bout o'er bent ;  
He brynt ye Lochwood Tower and Hall,  
And dang ye ladye o'er ye wall ;  
For whilk ye Johnstone stout and wyte  
Set Blackheth a' in lowe by night,  
Whyle cried a voice, as if frae Hell,  
Haste, open ye gates for bluidy Bell.”

(Fairfoul's *Guide to Moffat and District* ; and *Upper Annandale*, by Agnes Marchbank).

Blackheth is no doubt Blackethouse, and as John Bell of Blackethouse was fined in 1459 and 1465, the epitaph may entitle that branch of the family to claim the deceased as an ancestor ! The inscription obviously was composed by an enemy and not a friend, but in the same churchyard there was another epitaph to another John Bell, designed as of Brackenbrow, which was more laudatory in tone.

Dr Archibald Pitcairn, the famous Latin scholar, writing in 1727, stated that there was then a stone 200 years old in Reidkirk yard, then in the parish of Graitney, belonging to Viscount Stormont, commemorating John Bell, who lived in Annandale on the Scots side, with the following inscription :—

“ I, Jocky Bell o' Braiken-brow lyes under this stane ;  
Five of my awn sons laid it on my wame.  
I liv'd aw my days but sturt or strife,  
Was man of my meat, and master o' my wife.  
If you done better in your time than I did in mine,  
Take the stane aff my wame and lay it on o' thine.”

The epitaph was “ imitated ” in Latin by Dr Pitcairn (*Poemata Archibaldi Pitcarnii*, Med. Doc., Edin., 1727).

There is a tradition that in a distant age Walter Bell, the proud owner of Crowdie Castle, was a man never known to grant quarter to a fallen foe, and his looks were harsh and forbidding. One day he went to make love to Isabella De Corrie, daughter of Sir David De Corrie of Corrie Castle. On his way he encountered a rival in the person of Johnstone

of Tundergarth, whose suit Isabella favoured. Bell slew him on the banks of the Milk and carried off the distracted girl to Crowdie Castle, and there got a priest to marry them. Next day Bloody Bell gave a grand dinner in honour of the happy, or unhappy, event and invited Sir David De Corrie to the feast, and all went well until the priest appeared at the hall door and informed them that the bride was dead. It is said that Bell became insane, and died in a dungeon in his own castle. The story is told in *The Bard and the Belted Knight*, by William Johnstone, Edin.; Andrew Elliot, 1867; Advocates' Library, R240h.

In the *Records of the Corrie Family* or in the *Proceedings of the Dumfries Antiquarian Society*, 1912-13, p. 86, I trace no Sir David De Corrie or his daughter Isabella. This, however, may be the same story as that referred to in the *Records of the Corrie Family*, Vol. I., 141, with reference to the Tower of Lun or Lunelly, the residence of the Corrie family, in the parish of Hutton and Corrie. It is stated that, according to tradition, the Tower was burned by the Bells of Blacket-house, who carried off a daughter of the Corries. The tower was never rebuilt, the site being now part of Corrie Mains.

There is a tradition that James V. (1513-42), in one of his clandestine rambles, rested a night at Between-the-Waters, and that the daughter of the Laird, Blanche Bell, performed a jig before the monarch. Having a good ankle and foot, she held her petticoats rather high, at which the King was well pleased, laughed heartily, clapped his hands, and ever and anon, as the young lady pirouetted round, cried out, "Weel bobbie it, Blanche o' Middlebie." Moreover, when the dance was finished, tradition records that the King gave her a kiss and swore that "she bore the bell frae a' the lasses ever he saw dance," and it is said that, from this circumstance, this family of the Bells carried on their coat-of-arms "I beir the bel" (Willis's *Current Notes*, Vol. I., May, 1851). Sir Walter Scott calls the lady "Madge of Middlebie" (*Redgauntlet*, ch. xii.).

## BRANCHES OF THE CLAN.

Before proceeding to deal with individuals it may be interesting to note the following references to branches of the clan :

## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

In 1547, in the minority of King Edward VI., the Earl of Hertford, the Protector, invaded Scotland on account of the refusal of the Scottish Government to fulfil the contract that Mary Queen of Scots should marry the young king, the invasion culminating in the Battle of Pinkie, 10th September, 1547. "Most of the landholders of Dumfriesshire submitted for a while to a power they could not resist" (Chalmer's *Caledonia*, V., 97). There are various lists of the fighting strength then surrendered :—

A. The first of these was contained in manuscript of Richard Bell, Clerk to the West Marches of England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, quoted in Nicholson's *Cumberland*, lv. (where is also cited Lodge I., 321, 2; and Ascough's *History*, 3211-2). This list was given in *Caledonia*, V. 97, where corrections were made; and Sir Herbert Maxwell (*Dumfriesshire*, 178) appears to have attempted to make out a list embodying the previous ones, in which he places the total surrenders in Dumfriesshire at 5970.

B. The second list is given in the *Calendar of State Papers relating to Scotland*, 1547-1603 (J. Bain), I., 191, and purports to set forth the Borderers sworn to Edward VI. in January, 1552-53, the list having been made shortly before the King's death on 6th July, 1552.

C. The third list is contained in a Military Report of 1563-66 of "The number of most able horsemen to defend their country," printed in Armstrong's *Liddesdale*, app. CXIV.

These lists so far as relate to the Bells are as follows :—

### A. 1547.

Laird of Tinnel [Tinwald]	...	...	...	...	102
Simon Carruthers [of Mouswald]	...	...	...	...	41
Bells of Tostints [Toftyetts]	...	...	...	...	142
Bells of Tindills [Tinwald]	...	...	...	...	222

### B. 1552-53.

Belles of Midlebye	...	...	...	...	104
The Bells of Toftyeates, Kirkconwell, Land, Mydlebye, and The Kirk	...	...	...	...	312
Edward Maxwell of Tynnell	...	...	...	...	81

## C. 1563-66.

The Belles of Myddilbie called of Castle-	
milk ... ..	xxvj. horsemen.
The Belles of Carrutheris and Toftyates	xiiiij. „
The Belles of Tyndale—Dave Bell of the	
Bog ... ..	x. „
This surnem dekeyeth.	

It is difficult, or indeed impossible, to reconcile the lists made nearly four centuries ago or to identify the various groups. Tinnel, Tindills, or Tyndale, has been assumed by previous commentators to mean Tinwald, as is indeed obvious. At that date Edward Maxwell was Laird of Tinwald, and about that time Castlemilk also belonged to the Maxwells, and that property, or part thereof, may also have belonged to Edward. This supposition is supported by the fact that, in 1573, Edward Maxwell of Tinwald was cautioner for David Bell, the young king, a dweller on the Milk—probably Dave Bell of the Bog mentioned in List C. (*R.P.C.*, II., 272, etc.). The presumption accordingly is that the 102 followers of the Laird of Tinwald in List A were Maxwells and that, in addition, he controlled 222 Bells, including 10 horsemen under Davie Bell. Tostints is an obvious mistake for Toftyetts, the place referred to in the infeftment of Symon Carruthers of Mouswald, in 1512, in the 24 merk land of Pennersax and the 10 merk land of Middlebie, when sasine was given at Middlebie at the Toftgaitis (*Reg. Secret Seal*, 2420; *Drumlanrig MSS.* p. 60). As he also owned Carruthers (do., p. 59), it is clear that the 312 Bells in List B and the 14 horsemen in List C were followers of the Carruthers' chieftain. As regards the 104 Bells of Middlebie in the B List, there is more difficulty in identifying the leader. There was a 23 merk land of Middlebie which, with the £20 land of Kirkconnel and the lands of Oulcotts, was contained in a Charter to Michael Carlisle, brother and heir of James, Lord Carlisle, in 1529 (*R.M.S.*, 868-871), whose son sold to James, Lord Maxwell, in 1580 (*R.M.S.*, 136). But one would gather that these writs relate to the Superiority, Symon Carruthers having been infeft in the property in 1544 (*Drumlanrig MSS.*, 62).

*Ane Act in favours of Johne Erll of Mortoun, Lord Maxwell his freindis and servantis* (*Acts Parl.*, III., 387), which contains the Muster Roll of the Clansmen at the Siege of Stirling in



1585, which resulted in the capitulation of James VI., gives an interesting list of many of the Dumfriesshire Bells and members of other clans associated with them.

There is also a useful List of Heritors in 1684 in the *Register of the Privy Council*, 3rd Series, IX., 629.

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#### COWHOLM.

#### Half-Morton Parish.

THOMAS BELL OF COWHOLME (or Kowholm), in 1450, disputed a claim by Charles Murray of Cockpool to the lands of Howelset (or Howalside) in the Barony of Cockpool, which belonged, heritably, to Richard Bell, sometime laird of the same, and which the said Thomas bought from Richard, as contained in the King's Charter (*Drumlanrig MSS.*, p. 64). In 1459 Thomas Bell of Kowholm was a pledge (*Exchequer Rolls*, VI., 554.)

Cowholm and Milton were parts of the Barony of Half-Morton in the parish of that name, and Howalside, afterwards known as Howgilside, was part of the Barony of Kirkconnel and lay in Kirkpatrick-Fleming Parish. All these lands later formed part of the Springkell Estate (*Old Valued Rent Roll*, p. 49 and xxxi.)

#### PENNERSAX.

#### Pennersax Parish.

Although a colony of Bells resided in Pennersax, they appear to have been merely tenants. The lands of Pennersax, "whilk sometime was John Penesax," were granted by Robert I. (1306-29) to Stephen Kirkpatrick, Knight (*R.M.S.*, 1306-1429, Ap. II., 296 and 510.) In 1432 the witnesses to a Notarial Instrument of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, "done at the mansion house of Pennersax," included William, Richard, David, Walter, and Thomas Bell. Adam Kirkpatrick of Pennersax, in 1493, sold to Matthew Irvine dwelland in Pennersax 23/4d worth of his lands of Pennersax, occupied by David Bell, son of John Bell; 1 merk's worth and 40 penny worth, occupied by David Bell, elder son of Walter Bell; and in 1495 Adam granted a Charter to Symon Carruthers of Mouswald of his 3 merk land in the town of Pennersax, in the lordship of Pennersax, which David Bell dwelling in



Pennessax had formerly in lease from Isabella Johnstone, Adam's grandmother (*Buccleuch MSS.*, Historical Commission, p. 52-53.) Pennessax, in the time of James VI., was acquired by the Douglasses of Drumlanrig, the ancestors of the Dukes of Queensberry.

**KIRKSLEIGHTS.**

Hutton and Corrie Parish.

The lands which belonged to John Bell, referred to below, at the end of the fifteenth century, then called Kirslictis (or Cristlictis), appear to have been those now known as Kirk sleights, a bill of that name now let with Cowburn, Dormontrig, and Cowanfell in the Barony of Corrie. The name has been a puzzle to the scribes and, in addition to the above variants, it figures in titles as Kirstlichas, Kirkshiltie, or Kirthiltid (*Retours*, Dumfries.)

JOHN BELL OF KIRSLECTIS.—He got sasine in 1494 in Cristlichtis, described as in Annandale (*Exchequer Rolls*, X., 768), but in 1504 James IV. granted to David Graham *familiaris regis* the forty shilling land of old extent of Kirslichtis, held in chief of the Crown by John Bell by service of ward and apprised from him by Lord Maxwell, Steward of Annandale, for £54 of relief and fermes owing to non-entry of the rightful heir and for withholding £80 fine at Justice Court, to be held by David Graham till payment (*R.M.S.*, 1424-1513, No. 2840).

**CURRE.**

(?) Corrie Parish.

"THOMAS BELL OF CURRE," mentioned below, has been assumed by some to have been "of Crurie" in Eskdalemuir, but at that time Crurie belonged to the Beatties. The word is more probably Corrie, though these lands belonged to the Corrie family until about 1516, when it passed to the Johnstones (*Dumfries Antiquarian Society*, 1912-13, p. 93.)

In 1504 "The Laird of Castlemilk [Alexander Stewart], being often called to enter Thomas Bell of Curre to underly the law for art and part of the cruel slaughter of the Laird of Mouswald [Simon Carruthers], under the pain of £100, was amerced for his non-appearance. The said Thomas denounced at the horn."

Among others concerned in the same outrage were Thomas

Bell of the Broom (probably the lands of that name in Cummertrees Parish), for whom David Bell of Middlebie was surety, and Stephen Johnstoun, for whom William Purdum, portioner of Middlebie, was surety (*Pitcairns' Trials*, I.\* 41; *Soc., Antiq., Scot.*, 1888-89, p. 44, quoting *MSS. Justiciary Records*, Vol. I.). He probably was the name father of Purdomstown.

**LAVERHAY AND POLDEEN.**

Wamphray Parish.

On 10th November, 1515, James V. granted a letter to Alexander Jardine of Applegarth, Knight, of the six merk land of Powden and Milcummis that pertained to William Bell of Laverhay, which lands were assigned "to our derrest fader" by John Carruthers of Holmends (*Reg. Secreti Sigilli*, I., 2660.)

**CLYNTS.**

Ecclefechan Parish.

In the latter part of the sixteenth century there was a colony of Bells in the Clynt district, which lay in Ecclefechan Parish.

In 1541 Dik Bell of the Clint was stated to have slain two Grames, Englishmen (*Hamilton Papers*, I., 135). On 28th May, 1568, William, Patrick, and Thomas Bell, brethren, in the Hiemuir, resigned to Edward Irving of Bonshaw their right to the lands of Clynthill (*Book of the Irvings*, by Col. J. B. Irving); and he in the following year was pledge for the Bells of the Clyntis "that dwellis on his lands" (*R.P.C.*, II., 50).

In 1585 John Bell in Clynt, Thomas and Jenkin, his brothers, Dick in Clynt, Christie Bell in Clynthill, and Archie, his brother, took part in the Raid to Stirling (Acts Parl., III., 387).

In 1587 Edward Irving of Bonshaw granted a Charter to William Irving of Kirkconnel, his son, of merklands in Clynthill, occupied by Richard, son of Richard Bell, and Richard, son of David Bell (*Book of the Irvings*).

Davie Bell in Clynt in 1611 was among those absent from a court in Dumfries (*R.P.C.*, IX., 712-714).

**KIRKCONNEL.**

Kirkpatrick-Fleming Parish.

From the *Rammerscales Memorials* various facts or traditions about this branch of the family are set forth. In

these papers the opinion is stated that the Bells of Kirkconnel were of French extraction, and that in the reign of Robert II. William Le Bile came to Scotland with William, first Earl of Douglas, when he returned from an Embassy to France in 1374. It is, however, certain that the family settled in Annandale under the Earls of Douglas, Lords of Annandale and Galloway.

**WILLIAM BELL OF KIRKCONNEL.**—On 6th March, 1426, King James I. confirmed a Charter granted by the then deceased Archibald, Earl of Douglas, Lord of Galloway and Annandale (who died in 1424), to William Bell, "*pro ejus servitio et benemeritis dicto comiti impensis*," the lands of Kireconveth, otherwise called the Fleminglandis in the Lordship of Annandale, which had fallen to the Earl through the death of John de Carrutheris without heirs, to be held by the said William Bell and his heirs of the Lord of the lands of Luce in fee (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1424-1513, No. 85.)

The lands of Kirkconnel lie in Kirkpatrick-Fleming Parish, on the left bank of the Kirtle, and are now known as Springkell. They are not to be confused with the estate later known as Kirkconnel, near Ecclefechan, in that parish, to which the name was transferred when the Irvings, who owned Kirkconnel (now Springkell) till 1609, were dispossessed by the Maxwells and built the new Kirkconnel Hall at Ecclefechan. It is stated in the *Memorials* that it was William Bell who built a stronghold on the estate, called Bell's Tower, which stood near the village of Kirkconnel, 200 or 300 yards west of the present house of Springkell (*Statistical Account*, p. 280). It is said that above the principal gate was a scutcheon with three bells, and for a crest a hand holding a dagger pullways over.

**THOMAS BELL OF KIRKCONNEL.**—It is stated in the *Memorials* that Thomas Bell of Kirkconnel, in the reign of James II., stuck firm to the unhappy James, Earl of Douglas; for in 1451, when the Earl went to the Court of England to concert the raising of a rebellion in Scotland, Thomas Bell accompanied him, and was included in the letters of safe conduct granted by the King of England.

In 1481 Bell's Tower was garrisoned by 20 men under the Laird of Amisfield (*Acts Parl.*, II., 140); and in 1484, when on a threatened raid from England, James, Earl of Douglas, returned to Scotland, accompanied by the Duke of

Albany, he is stated by Pennant (I., 100) to have spent the night at "Bell's Castle, close to Kirkconnel," before his defeat at Lochmaben, where Douglas was taken prisoner (Hume's *History of House of Douglas*, I., 206). The tower was demolished in 1734.

It is also stated that, being involved in the Earl's rebellion, Thomas Bell forfeited the estate of Kirkconnel. This does not seem to have been the case. Thomas Bell of Kirkconnel was a witness in 1484 (*Drumlanrig MSS.*, 65); but on 10th November, 1515, James V. granted a letter to Alexander Jardine of Applegarth of the 6 merk land of Poldean that pertained to William Bell of Laverhay, and the 4 merk land of Kirkconnel which pertained to Thomas Bell (*Reg. Sec. Sig.*, 2660.)

JOHN BELL OF KIRKCONNEL.—It is stated in the *Book of the Irvings*, by Col. J. B. Irving, p. 58, that John Bell, son of the deceased Thomas Bell of Kirkconnel, got a Charter, dated 14th May, 1551; that in the same year John Bell granted Woolcottis to Richard Bell, whose daughter married William Irving, and who by his marriage got Woolcottis, Middlebie, etc.

Colonel Irving assumes that John Bell was the last of Kirkconnel, which, he states, passed to the Irvings by 1542.

In 1622 Francis Bell, brother of William of Blackethouse, assisted the Earl of Nithsdale in an attack on Kirkconnel, possessed by William Irving (*R.P.C.*, XII., 640, etc.)

Even if the Bells then ceased to own the property, they continued as tenants, for the Testament of David Bell in Kirkconnel was recorded on 7th January, 1658. He left seven children—John, Walter, David, George, Blench, Sara, and Jean,—their tutors being John Bell of Blackethouse, George Bell of Godsbrig, Walter Bell of Neuk, and Richard Bell in Setthornes.

John Bell in Kirkconnel got a Bond from John Bell in Minsca for £25 Inglish money in 1668 (*Reg. of Deeds*, Durie, Vol. 17/489.)

#### ALBIE (including SATUR).

#### Pennersax Parish.

This family was of considerable importance in the district, and would appear to have been among the first of the Bells

to hold land in Middlebie Parish. The name Auldbie (or old dwelling) points to a settlement at an early date. From this branch of the clan sprang the holders of Blackethouse, Godsbrig (or Scotsbrig), Auldhall, Satur, and Land.

WILLIAM BELL OF ALDBY, as early as 1459, got remission of a fine (*Exchequer Rolls*, VI., 554.)

WILLIAM BELL OF ALBIE appears about a century later. In 1563 he and others were delaited of the hurting of Roger Kirkpatrick of Closeburn and the cruel slaughter of other Kirkpatricks. (*Pitcairn's Trials*, I.\* 431.) In 1569 William Bell of Awy was pledge for Criste Bell of the Lands (*R.P.C.*, II., 49.)

In various authorities it is stated that "William Bell of Godsbrig and Blackethouse" had a daughter, Sibill, who married Fergus Graham of Plomp, Cumberland, and was the mother of Sir Richard Graham of Esk, Bart., who died in 1653, and was the great-grandmother of James Graham, first Earl of Preston, born 1648, died 1695 (*Scots Peerage*, VI., 146, and VII., 99; *Burke's Peerage* (Graham of Esk); *Cumberland Antiq. Soc.*, XI., N.S., 81). There is as much difficulty in tracing the early history of the Grahams as of the Bells, but I am inclined to the view that "William Bell of Godsbrig and Blackethouse" was the same man as "William Bell of Auldbie," though others have assumed that Sibill was the daughter of Will Bell ("Redcloak"), who appears to have lived two generations later.

The foundation of the Graham pedigree is a *Catalog of the Graemes*, by Lord Burghley, made in 1596 (*Border Papers*, II., Appendix), which is peculiarly devoid of dates. In the *Catalog* it is stated that "William Grame, alias Long Will, banished out of Scotland about eighty years since—i.e., about 1516—brought with him eight sons, whom he planted near the river of Esk." The third son, Fergus Graham of Plomp, assumed by Mr T. J. Carlyle (*Debatable Land*, p. 27) to have been born about 1560 and to have died about 1621, married Sibill Graham. The seventh son, William of Carlisle, had a son, William Graham of the Rosetrees, and a daughter, who married Jok Bell of Albie, and was the mother of William Bell of Blackethouse ("Redcloak"), who married Agnes Graham, and died about 1623. If Lord Burghley's *Catalog* be correct, it seems improbable that Sibill Bell, the wife of Fergus Graham, could have been the daughter of "Red-

cloak," his grand-nephew, and is much more likely that William, the father of Sibill, was of some earlier generation.

JOHN BELL OF ALBIE, known as Jok of Albie, presumably the son of William, was the father of at least seven sons whose names are noted below (Acts Parl., III., 118, 387; *R.P.C.*, III., 42, 43, 59, VI., 375, etc., and XII., 645). As already mentioned, he married a daughter of William Graham of the Rosetrees (Bain's *Border Papers*, II., App.), and who is said to have been a sister of Kinmont Willie's wife.

1. John of Albie (callit Hingmow), referred to below.

2. William of Blackethouse, who in 1578, designated as son of John of Awy, was a pledge (Acts Parl., III., 118), and in the same year is referred to as "Will Bell, sone to Jok Bell of Alby, callit Reidcloik" (*R.P.C.*, III., 42, 43, 59.) His history is noted under Blackethouse.

3. Walter, probably Watt of Albie, who with Willie of Blackethouse was charged in 1576 with attempts and slaughters in the West Marches (*R.P.C.*, III., 455.)

4. Thomas.

5. Francis.

6. Ritchie.

7. Fergy.

The Bell of Albie who was killed at the Battle of Dryfesands in 1593, the place being commemorated by a thorn tree (*Annandale Book*, I., cxxvi.), was probably this John Bell.

JOHN BELL OF ALBIE (callit Hingmow).—In 1611 he was absent from a Court at Dumfries (*R.P.C.*, IX., 712, 714), and in 1622 John in Albie was a cautioner (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 698, 701).

In 1631 he, described as in Albie, was infeft in the £3 lands of Briggiscroft and Birrets and one merk land of Auldbie, together with the lands of Torbeckhill [Corbathill in *Register*], all in the parish of Pennersax, following on a Feu Charter to him and his heirs bearing the name of Bell, granted by William, Viscount of Drumlanrig (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/130).

He, John of Crowdieknowe, and John of Blackethouse were Commissioners for War in Dumfriesshire in 1648 (Acts Parl., VI., ii., 32).

He and Blench Irving, his spouse, and Thomas, their second son, were infeft in 1631 in Dockenflat under a Wadset by Walter Bell in Godsbrig, the heritable proprietor, and they had also an annual rent out of Godsbrig (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/132 and 160).

Blench Irving, his wife, survived him. Her Testament was recorded 26th July, 1657, her executors being her sons—(1) William of Albie (below), and (2) Thomas of Auldhall (see that title).

**WILLIAM BELL OF ALBIE.**—In 1654 he was infeft on a Disposition by James, Earl of Queensberry, in the noble lord's lands of Dockenflat, Congriss, Howathill, Skailrig, Howalsland, and Lochknow, in the parish of Middlebie (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 5/383).

In 1662 he, described as "in Albae," with George in Godibrig and John of Crowdieknowe, were each fined in connection with the Covenanting troubles, his fine being £1000 (*Acts Parl.*, VII., 423).

He married Janet Scott, and they in 1643 were infeft in Greengatehouse, in Middlebie (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 5/67); and in 1663 she was infeft in life-rent, and John, her eldest son, in fee in the three merk lands of Kirkslichtis and Fellfauld and two shilling and eight penny land of Woodell, in Corrie Parish, on a Disposition under reversion by James, Earl of Annandale, the attorney for Janet Scott being James Scott, son of Francis Scott of Balgray, doubtless relatives (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 6/133).

Albie House bears the Bell Arms and W.B.-I.S., 1668 (*Dumfries Antiq. Soc.*, 1912-13, p. 108).

He had at least seven sons:—

1. John Bell of Albie and Satur.—He got a Feu Disposition, dated 29th December, 1657, from the Earl of Hartfell of the forty penny land of Satur and ten shilling land of Darhippis (both known by the name of the Merkland of Satur) on the narrative of payment of three score pounds sterling by John of Albie as tutor of the said John, eldest son of William Bell of Albie, his oy (grandson), with a feu duty of 6/8 Scots (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/48; *Books of C. and S.*, 9th June, 1687).

John Bell of Albie, son of William Bell, younger of Albie, was infeft in 1659 in Brigercroft and Barettis, Albie, Torbeckhill, Dockenflat, and Salter, on Disposition by James, Earl of Queensberry (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/133).

On 18th November, 1658, James, Earl of Queensberry, disposed the lands and mains of Albie to him (*Com. Court Books*, Dumfries, 30th October, 1689).

In 1664 he was infeft in half of Minsca and Risphill under reversion on a Wadset by James, Earl of Annandale, as heritable proprietor (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 8/104), which he assigned to



Thomas Bell in Townhead of Carruthers, then in Minsea (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24/111). John Bell of Crowdieknowe was infeft in the other half under a similar Wadset (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 8/120, and *P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/82). He granted a Bond to Thomas, his brother (19th October, 1680).

He and Margaret Smith, his spouse, conveyed half of Torbeckhill to Walter Bell, brother of William of Crowdieknowe (*P.R.S.*, 22nd February, 1696), and he also sold half of Dockenflat to John Sharp of Hoddum (*Sasine*, 12th September, 1700).

In 1686 he disposed Albie to John, his eldest son, William, his second son, and the other children to be born of his marriage with Margaret Smith (*Sheriff Court Books*, 25th May, 1718). He appears to have died in 1700. (Tomb at Albie, with Coat with three bells).

He had three sons:—

(1) John, the eldest, who had Albie adjudged from him. The Decree was acquired by his next brother.

(2) William, the second son, who registered a Sasine on 17th November, 1674 (*G.R.S.*), was a heritor in 1684 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Ser., IX., 629). He conveyed Albie to Robert, his brother, in 1717 (*Sheriff Court Books*, 4th July, 1753). He had an only daughter, Margaret, to whom the four daughters of Robert succeeded as heirs.

(3) Robert Bell of Albie, who in 1717 got a Disposition of Albie from William, his brother. Disputes having arisen as to the right to Albie, a family Agreement was made, dated 20th May, 1757 (*Register of Deeds*, 6th September, 1758), from which it appears that Robert had four daughters who succeeded him as heirs portioners:—

(a) Margaret, who married Thomas Blacklock in Albie, and to whose share John Blacklock, her son, acquired right in 1792. They had a daughter, Jean, born 1748, and another son, Robert, born 1751 (*Middlebie Register*).

(b) Susanna, who married John Beattie in Albie, and whose share passed to John Blacklock in 1792.

(c) Jean, who conveyed to John Blacklock in 1775.

(d) Bridget, who married John Adamson, and whose sons, James and John Adamson, conveyed to John Blacklock in 1789.

In 1826 the Duke of Queensberry granted a Charter to



John Blacklock, son of Thomas Blacklock and great-great-grandson of John Bell of Albie.

2. William Bell of Satur, second son of William of Albie.

He registered a Sasine, 17th November, 1674, in an annual rent out of Halfts (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 34/261). He got a Feu Disposition (1672) from John of Albie, his elder brother, of the half merk land of Satur (*P.R.S.*, 3rd March, 1679), and disposed to Francis, his brother (1687) (*P.R.S.*, IV., 113, 18th February, 1687). He also granted various dispositions to his brothers, viz., to Francis and Walter, of parts of Dockenflat, to George of Dirrops, and to Richard of Torbeckhill (as detailed below). These properties William probably acquired through the Adjudication against his brother John. He granted a Bond on 9th October, 1675, and on 1st April, 1690, a discharge to his sisters.

3. Thomas Bell, third son of William of Albie, went to Norfolk, and died at Hockwold-cum-Wilton on 14th February, 1714, aged 60, and was buried in Wilton Church. On his tombstone, bearing the Bell Arms, it is stated that he was born at the House of Albie, in Middlebie Parish. Another tombstone adjoining is erected to his wife, Elizabeth Pain, "died a Right of Burgess of Dumfries, in Scotland, November 22, 1725." From a verse on the stone it is to be gathered that she went to Norfolk when twenty years of age. They had eight children.

This information is kindly supplied by Mr Edward Percy Archer, F.R.I.B.A., London, their descendant. Bells apparently went to the Eastern counties from Dumfriesshire probably in connection with the long continued trade in cattle between Scotland and Norwich, to which the Union of 1707 gave an impetus, though it is said the regular trade did not begin till after 1747 (*Droving Days*, by J. M. Corrie). But previous to the probable commencement of this trade, there appear to have been Bells in Norfolk. (See J. H. Josselyn's *Pedigrees of Sir Robert Bell, etc.*, published 1896, relating to Norfolk families from an early date without any reference to Dumfriesshire Bells.)

4. Richard Bell of Torbeckhill was the son of William of Albie and brother of John of Albie. He was infeft in Torbeckhill, parish of Pennersax, 18th February, 1687, on a Disposition by his brother William, second son of William Bell of Albie, as heritable proprietor (*P.R.S.*, IV., 188). He granted

a Bond on 23rd December, 1690. On 9th November, 1694, he was infeft in half of Torbeckhill on Disposition by his brother, John of Albie, and Margaret Smith, his spouse (*P.R.S.*, V. (2), 234). About 1694 he conveyed half of Torbeckhill to Walter Bell, brother of William of Crowdieknowe, who also got the other half from John of Albie and Margaret Smith, his spouse (father and mother of Richard). He was infeft on 15th September, 1699, in an annual rent out of Dockenflat pertaining to the above Walter under a Bond dated 12th May, 1696, in which the latter was described as in Torbeckhill portioner of Dockenflat (*P.R.S.*, VI., 135) which was discharged 13th January, 1703 (*P.R.S.*).

5. George Bell of Dirrops, son of William of Albie, was infeft in Dirrops on Disposition by his brother, William, on 9th November, 1686 (*P.R.S.*, IV., 152). George, described as brother german of John of Albie, renounced any right he might have to Dirrops after May, 1701 (*P.R.S.*).

6. Francis Bell of Satur, who was the sixth son of William of Albie, was infeft in the half merk or 40 penny land of Saltur and 10 shilling land of Darhippis or Dirrops on Disposition by William, his brother (*P.R.S.*, 18th February, 1687). On Disposition by William, his brother Francis (therein designed as in Torbeckhill) was infeft in half of Dockenflat on 27th July, 1685 (*P.R.S.*, IV., 113), but Francis, shortly before his death, and Janet Beattie, his spouse, renounced any right to Dockenflat (*P.R.S.*).

He died 5th April, 1700, aged 48 years, survived by Janet Beattie, his spouse, who died on 25th December, 1715, aged 56 years. (Tomb, Albie Aisle).

He had at least two children :—

(1) William (below), and

(2) Isabella, spouse of John Carlyle in Burrows, who died in April, 1759, aged 72 years. (Tomb, Middlebie.)

William Bell of Satur, the eldest son of Francis, got a Disposition of the Superiority of Satur from his uncle, John of Albie, and Margaret Smith, his spouse, in December, 1694 (*Commissary Court Books, Dumfries*, 10th May, 1695). He served heir in general to his grandfather, John of Albie (22nd May, 1764). He died 3rd June, 1769, aged 90 years, predeceased by Jean Bell, his spouse, who died 6th March, 1754, aged 72 years (Albie Aisle).

His children were :—

(1) Mary Bell, his daughter, who died 4th November, 1703, aged 6 years (Albie Aisle).

(2) Francis Bell, who died 11th July, 1717, aged 9 days (Albie Aisle).

(3) Sarah Bell, spouse of Francis Carlyle in Middlebie-town, Commander of the King's Excise yacht. She died 10th November, 1776, aged 77 years (Tomb, Middlebie).

(4) Jean Bell of Satur, designed as daughter of William, married John Carlyle, writer, "in Pennersaughts" and "in Satur" (Marriage Contract, 1st June, 1738; *Sheriff Court Books*, 30th October, 1741). The husband settled £200 and gave his wife an annuity of £11 stg. William settled Satur on the spouses for life (under burden of payment of £100 Scots to her sister, Sarah Bell), with a destination to the children of the marriage in fee. In 1795 Mrs Jean Bell of Satur brought a valuation of the teinds, from which it appeared the lands only extended to 30 acres. She died in 1798 (*Books of C. and S.*, 17th September, 1808), and had issue :—

(a) Francis Carlyle, writer in Edinburgh, the eldest son, in January, 1800, got a Precept from the Earl of Hopetoun's Trustees as son of Jean Bell and John Carlyle, grandson of William Bell, and great-grandson and heir of Francis Bell.

He married Margaret Johnstone. John Carlyle, their eldest son, had an only daughter, Jane Carlyle of Satur, who married William Holliday (of whom below).

(b) Jean Carlyle, spouse to John Armstrong in Pokeskine.

(c) Barbara Carlyle.

(d) John Carlyle, born 1745, died 6th March, 1748, aged 3 years (Albie Aisle).

(e) Mary Carlyle, born 1747.

(f) Joan (or Joanna) Carlyle, born 1748, who married Walter Bell of Nether Albie.

(g) William Carlyle, born 1750.

(h) Margaret Carlyle, born 1754, married James Johnstone, M.D., Moffat, who survived her husband and died at Annan on 3rd November, 1830.

(i) John Carlyle, born 1755 (Albie Aisle; Minute in *Books of C. and S.*, 17th September, 1808; *Middlebie Register*).

Jane Carlyle of Satur (above), who married William Holliday in Langlands, served heir in general to Francis Carlyle, her grandfather, on 6th October, 1804, and on 22nd

May, 1805, got a precept from the Earl of Hopetoun for infetting her in Satur as heir to him.

She appears merely to have completed a title with a view to the payment of the debts of Francis Carlyle. With this object she executed a Trust Disposition (*Books of C. and S.*, 16th April, 1805), and Satur was sold by the Trustees to William Little in 1809.

7. Walter Bell of Dockenflat, son of William of Albie.—He was, on 9th November, 1686, infett in half of Dockenflat on a Disposition by William, his brother, in his favour, in which he is described as Walter Bell, son of William Bell of Albie (*P.R.S.*, IV., 150). He was also infett in an annual rent out of Dunnabie and Greengatehouse on a Bond by William Bell, elder of Scotsbrig, and William, his eldest son, June, 1700 (*P.R.S.*, VI., 202); and in Floatsine on a Disposition by William Bell of Blackethouse, 12th July, 1700 (*P.R.S.*, VI., 212).

He married :—

(1) Frances Bell, described as spouse to Walter Bell of Dockenflat, who died 19th June, 1709, aged 35 years; and

(2) Grizel Lawson, who died on 25th December, 1715, aged 40 years, who, with Thomas, his son, who died on 19th March, 1709, aged 3 months, were buried in the Albie Aisle.

#### AULDHALL AND LAND.

About 1633 James, Lord Johnstoun of Lochwood, in implement of an Excambion conveyed to William Irving, elder of Kirkconnel, and Jean Armston, his spouse (in exchange for the lands of Stank in Dornock Parish), the lands of Greengatehouse, Dirrups, Salter, Land, Plaine, Auldhall, Yetts, Burnfoot, and Dogslacks, being parts of the lands of Middlebie (*Kirkconnel Writs.*).

In 1642 warrant was granted for the arrest of John Bell in Auldhall (*R.P.C.*, 2nd Ser., VII., 351).

THOMAS BELL OF AULDHALL AND LAND, who was the second son of John Bell of Albie, got a Disposition, dated 11th October, 1654 (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 6/61; *B. of C. and S.*, 5th March, 1742), from James, Earl of Hartfell, of the lands of Auldhall, Land, Plain, Yaits, and Burnfoot; and on 18th November, 1658, James, Earl of Queensberry, disponed another half merk land of Land to John of Albie in life-rent and Thomas,

his son, in fee (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/130). Thomas had two daughters, who on 8th August, 1732, served as his heirs portioners, viz. :—

(1) Margaret Bell, grand-aunt of Thomas (below); and  
(2) Joan (or Joanna) Bell, grandmother of Thomas, who married William Bell of Blackethouse. She had two sons :—

(1) George Bell of Blackethouse; and  
(2) Richard Bell, who married Grizell Wallace and had a son, Thomas (below). In 1721 he discharged in favour of his brother, George, all right and interest in Kirkleton and Pokeskine (*P.S.R.*).

Thomas Bell of Auldhall and Land married Jean Irving, eldest daughter of John Irving of Wysebie and Mary Bell, his spouse, and sister of Edward Irving of Wysebie.

On 25th March, 1742, he got a Precept from George, Marquis of Annandale, as heir to Thomas Bell, his great-grandfather, in Auldhall, Land, Plaine, Yetts, and Burnfoot (*P.R.S.*, 14th May, 1744); and on 31st July, 1746, from Charles, Duke of Queensberry, in the other portion of Land.

He was served heir to Jean, his grandmother, and Margaret, his grand-aunt, and was charged to enter heir to them and to Thomas, his great-grandfather (*Reg. Adj.*, 23rd July, 1747).

He got into embarrassed circumstances, and in 1746-47 he executed Dispositions in which he was designed Thomas Bell of Land, son procreate between Richard Bell, brother-german of the deceased George Bell of Blackethouse, and the deceased Grizell Wallace, spouse of the said Richard Bell. He conveyed Burnfoot to Francis Kennedy; Land to James Clow; and Yetts to Richard Bell, his father. By Contract of 13th February, 1749, he conveyed Auldhall to Jean Irving, his spouse, towards meeting certain claims by her. He also undertook to pay her an annuity of £2 10s stg. yearly; but she reserved right to a pension as an officer's widow in case her husband should be an officer in the army at his death (*Sheriff Court Books*, 19th May, 1749).

GRIZEL (OR GRACE) BELL, the only child of the marriage, married John Carruthers of Braes. They had five children—(1) William, (2) Francis, (3) John, (4) Mary, and (5) Grizel.

In 1791 Mrs Jean Irving or Bell conveyed Auldhall to Francis Carruthers, the second son, whose Trustees sold to George Irving of Newfield in 1822.

**BLACKETHOUSE.**

Pennersax Parish.

The Tower of Blackethouse stands on the right bank of the Kirtle. In the *Report of the Historical Monuments Commission*, p. 158, a plan of the remains is given, and two lintels bear the inscriptions—17 G.B.-I.K. 14, *i.e.*, 1714, and I.B.-I.I., 1663 (to be afterwards referred to). The tower was L shaped, a form which was unknown in the Borders prior to about 1550, and from an architectural standpoint it probably dates from round about 1600.

In the *Rammerscales Memorials* before referred to, it is stated that Bell of Blackethouse "cut his initials on the lintel of his peel house—W.B., 1404." This inscription does not now exist, but there undoubtedly was a John Bell of Blackethouse alive in 1459 and 1465, and the fact that the name is *Blackwoodhouse* points to the existence of a building of some pretensions in an age of hovels, and it is quite possible there was a William Bell of Blackethouse alive in 1404 who then built his peel tower, which was reconstructed at the beginning of the seventeenth century. If this assumption be correct, it points to the fact that Bells owned Blackethouse before the grant of Kirkconnel to William Bell in 1426, unless he was the same as the owner of Blackethouse in 1404. It says in the *Memorials* that Thomas Bell forfeited Kirkconnel about 1451, and that though the family lost that estate they retained Blackethouse, and that all the Bells throughout the kingdom acknowledged Blackethouse for their chief, members of which branch allied with best families in the south as the Maxwells once and again, the Johnstons, Charteris of Amisfield, Carruthers of Holmends, and Grahams of Eske (which family was afterwards dignified with the title of Viscount Preston). The matrimonial connections with the Maxwell and Charteris families I have failed to trace.

The unravelling of the succession is complicated by the fact that though a John Bell of Blackethouse was fined in 1459 and 1465, Bells of Albie appear on the scene—William, who was alive in 1459; another William, who flourished in 1563; and Jok of Albie, who was the father of John of Albie (called Hingmow) and of William of Blackethouse (called "Redcloak." One explanation of the confusion would be that John of Blackethouse and Jok of Albie were one and the same person, and of his sons John got Albie and William Blackethouse.



Putting aside these conjectures, John Bell of Blackethouse (as already mentioned) compounded for fines in 1459 and 1465 (*Exchequer Rolls*, VI., 554, and VII., 310), and he probably was the John Bell who in 1494 got sasine of Cristlictis (*Exchequer Rolls*, X., 768). If Pennant (I., 101) is correct in stating that the story of Fair Helen of Kirkconnel dates from the latter end of the reign of James V. or the beginning of that of Queen Mary (say about 1513), it may have been this John Bell who was the rival of Adam Fleming, and who shot Helen in the arms of the latter, whom she was trying to shield. Versions of the poem are given in Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, and in William Stenhouse's *Lyric Poetry of Scotland*, p. 142.

WILLIAM BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE (CALLED "RED-CLOAK").—Between 1578 and 1623 in the records of these troublous times the name always in the forefront was that of William Bell of Blackethouse (called "Redcloak"), tenant of the lands of Douglas of Drumlanrig (*R.P.C.*, IV., 565), and described as "Chief of the Bells" (V., 497).

He was the son of Jok Bell of Albie (*R.P.C.*, III., 42, 43, 59; and Acts Parl., III., 118), who married a sister of William Grame of the Rosetrees (Bain's *Border Papers*, II., App.). He had eight brothers—Wat, Thomas, Francis (*R.P.C.*, XII., 645), Ritchie, John (Acts Parl., III., 387), Fergy (*R.P.C.*, VI., 375, etc.), Robert (*Border Papers*, II., 127), and David (*R.P.C.*, V., 544).

In 1583 a letter was addressed to the Laird of Johnstone by Will Bell of the Nook and Will Bell of Blackethouse taking burden for Rany and Watty Bell, "our brether" (*Annandale MSS.*, 31; *Annandale Book*, I., 47), but possibly "brether" may mean relations and not brothers, seeing that the cautioners both bore the name of Will; but Will of Blackethouse had brothers named Rany and Watty.

He married Agnes Grahame. He appears not only to have held Blackethouse, but also Dunnabie, and probably also Godsbrig, as in various transactions in 1631 about these properties the life-rent of his widow in Nether Dunnabie was reserved (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/131 and 160).

He had at least four sons—Francis, John, Walter, and Will (*R.P.C.*, V., 262; VIII., 120). He may have been the "Will Bell" whose daughter married Francis Graeme, grandson of old Riche Graeme of Netherby (*Border Papers*, I., 125).

In 1578 Will Bell, son to Jok Bell of Albie, callit Reid-clok, had been interned with Sir James Stewart of Doune, who had "sufferit him to depart and pas hame" (*R.P.C.*, III., 42, 43, 59). In the same year he is designed as Wille Bell callit reid cloik, son to Johnne Bell of Awy, when he was in the custody of the Commendator of St. Colmes Inch, as one of the pledges for the Borders (Acts Parl., III., 118). In 1581 he, along with Watt Bell of Albie and Mathie Bell (callit the King), were charged for attempts and slaughter within the West Marches (*R.P.C.*, III., 455); and two years later the lieges were bound not to harbour him, Will Bell (callit Willie of the Nuke); Rany and Johnne Bell, his brether; Wattie Bell (callit the Budyell); Ritchie Bell; Francie Bell and Umphra Bell, his brither; Wate Bell in Middlebiehill; Oswald Bell there; and Joke Bell, son to Umphra of the Ban, "fugitives for sindrie greit and enorme attemptatis of stouthreif slaughter and fire raising" (*R.P.C.*, III., 638). In 1585 William Bell in Blackethouse, and Wat, Thome, Francis, Riche, and John Bellis (brether to the said William), were included in the Act of Indemnity subsequent to taking part in the Raid to Stirling when James VI. surrendered to the Confederate Lords (Acts Parl., III., 387).

In 1589 Jock and Thomas, "Reidcloak's brether," were charged with the theft of horse and nolt (*Cal. Border Papers*, II., 122).

In 1590 Will Bell (called "Reidcloak"), as tenant of the lands of Blackethouse, belonging to Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, had been dispossessed by Edward Irving of Bonshaw (*R.P.C.*, IV., 565).

In 1595 Francie and John Bell, sons of "Redcloak," and other men of Sir James Douglas were charged with the theft of nolt and horses from Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn (*R.P.C.*, V., 262, etc.).

Some idea of the extent of the depredations is derived from the complaints by the Grahams, in June, 1586, that "Redcloak," with other Bells, had taken 120 kine and oxen and 60 sheep, and had damaged or spoiled insight or plenishing of houses to the amount of £700 (Nicholson's *Cumberland*, I., xxxiv.). Notwithstanding the matrimonial alliances between the two families, there was at this time a great feud between the English Graemes and the Bells consequent upon the



slaughter of a number of the latter (*Salisbury MSS. at Hatfield*, Part III., 157, etc.).

In 1596 "Redcloak," with 20 men, was charged with taking 200 kye from Sarke (*Border Papers*, II., 199).

In the same year Will Redcloak, with his brothers John and Robbie, and Walter Bell of Godsbrig, took part with the Laird of Buccleuch in the dramatic release of Kinmont Willie from Carlisle Castle, where he had been incarcerated after his capture in time of truce. In the investigations into the affair it is recorded that Will and his brothers came out of Annandale, that "John Bell's horse tireit and he came to Fergus the Plumpes on the night and bade there, while on the morne Willie Redcloke spake with Willie [Graeme] of the Rosetrees that same night; he is his sister's son" (*Border Papers*, II., 127; Borland's *Raids and Rievers*, 216). It is said that "Redcloak" was the brother-in-law of Kinmont Willie.

In 1597 "Redcloak" was secured by William Bowes for Lord Scrope as a pledge on the West March (*Salisbury MSS.*, Part VII.).

"Will Reidclok, Chief of the Bells," and Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, his master and landlord, were charged to enter on a complaint by Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn for the slaughter of the Laird of Kirkmichael (*R.P.C.*, V., 544).

In 1602 "Reidcloak" and Fergy, his brother, were again involved in complaints by the Laird of Closeburn (*R.P.C.*, VI., 357, 830/2).

In 1606 he was prohibited from hunting in Cheviot or destroying the woods (*R.P.C.*, VII., 639).

In 1608 he and his sons, Walter and Will, with Walter Bell, son of Oswald Bell of the Hill, were charged with attacking the servants of James Johnstone of that ilk at Minsea on Corrie. It was alleged that they were all armed with swords, lances, gauntlets, plate-sleeves, hagbuts, and pistolets, but were assoilzied from the charge of carrying hagbuts and pistolets "because 'Reidclok' has sworn that it is not true" (VIII., 120)—a good testimony to his reputation for veracity whatever other charges might be made against him. In 1609 Will Bell of Blackethouse was on an assize (*R.M.S.*, 1609-20, No. 911). In 1622 he was nominated by John Murray of Lochmaben to assist in the pacification of the Borders (*R.P.C.*, XII., pp. xliii. and 729). Francis, his

brother, in the same year assisted the Earl of Nithsdale, John Maxwell of Castlemilk, and Robert Maxwell of Tinwald in an attack on the fortalice of Kirkconnel, Ecclefechan, possessed by William Irving (*R.P.C.*, XII., 640, etc.). In 1622 "Redcloak" and Rany Bell of Godsbrig were caution for Walter Bell of Middlebiehill—probably their brother (*R.P.C.*, XIII., 482); and in 1625 he became surety for Robin and John Bell in Carruthers—possibly also his brothers—the bond being for 1000 merks (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 711).

This is the last entry traced to Will Bell ("Redcloak.") As we have seen, he was interned in 1578, when presumably he was past majority, and in 1625 he must have been at least between 60 and 70 years of age.

WILLIAM BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE.—Although the cognomen of "Redcloak" disappears, the name of William Bell of Blackethouse continues in the records. He doubtless was Will, son of "Redcloak," mentioned in 1608 and above referred to.

In 1631 William Bell in Blackethouse and his heirs bearing the name of Bell were infeft in Blackethouse, Newlands, Johnstonestown, Cushethill, and other lands on a Precept by William, Viscount Drumlanrig (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/131); and in the same year he granted the life-rent of Kirtlehead, in Carruthers Parish, to Blench Bell, his wife (*P.R.S.*, 3/133).

In 1633 William Bell in Blackethouse and his son (unnamed) were charged with taking from the servants of John, Earl of Annandale, a lardner mart cow upliftable from each of the 32 parishes of Annandale, a perquisite attached to the Keepership of Lochmaben Castle. This levy was an unpopular one. The cow in this case had been uplifted from Blackethouse—where doubtless there was one generally to be found. When William Bell followed the Earl's servants and took it back, they threatened him with the law, to which he responded "that he had been before H.M. Counsel before" (*R.P.C.*, 2nd Series, V., 161)—probably a true enough statement!

William Bell had two sons:—

1. John of Blackethouse (see below); and
2. Thomas of Dunabie, who married Nicolas Douglas, who survived him and married Robert Hunter in Drumbcork. He must have died before 2nd July, 1630, when the grant of tutory of Jean and Elizabeth Bell, his daughters, was granted

to George Rig, servitor to the Earl of Queensberry (Writ at Drumlanrig). In 1631 there were various transactions by which Walter Bell in Godsbrig was infest in Dunabie under burden of the life-rent of Nicol Douglas, the widow of Thomas, in Over Dunabie (*P.R.S.*, 3/131). William Bell of Blackethouse and George Bell in Godsbrig, his brother, as principals, and James, Master of Drumlanrig, son of William, Viscount Drumlanrig, as cautioner, bound themselves to pay to the said Jean Bell, one of the two daughters then only in life of Thomas, son of the deceased William of Blackethouse and Nicolas Douglas, and the said George Rig as her tutor, 2715 merks. William disposed Blackethouse to the Master in relief of his obligation, and Walter disposed Dunabie in relief of William (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3, pp. 131, 159, and 160).

From the above we would conclude that Thomas got Dunabie from his father, and on his death without a male heir the rights in that property passed to his uncle George in Godsbrig, who secured the rights of the widow and daughter. Probably the widow was of the Queensberrys, Nicolas being a family name.

In the Scotsbrig Aisle at Middlebie there is a tomb of Thomas Bell, son of William Bell of Blackethouse, but the date is broken. It is assumed to be about 1630.

JOHN BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE.—He was probably the son of William. In 1644 he was indicted for the slaughter of Irvine of Braes in May, 1643; and was one of the Commissioners of War in 1646. It is stated in the *Rammerscales Memorials* that he stood fast to Charles I. (1625-51) in all his troubles; that, being Governor of Carlisle, he refused to yield the city for some days, for which the Tower of Blackethouse was entirely burnt with all the papers of the family; notwithstanding of that he, at the head of a flying party, cut off the stragglers of Cromwell's army.

He married Jean Irving (daughter of William Irving of Kirkconnel, who died in 1680). The fact that the old tower of Blackethouse bears the marking 1663, I.B.-I.I., would indicate that the tower of 1404 was rebuilt or added to by J(ohn) B(ell) and J(ean) I(rving).

In 1660 he granted a Bond for 400 merks (*Register of Deeds*, Dalrymple, Vol. 24, 664).

In 1664 there is registered a complaint by Robert Carleel in Souplebant, who was stated to be a heritor but was merely

"a simple tenant" of John Bell of Blackethouse (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 487).

He must have died before January, 1670, when Jean Irving, his widow, got from William of Blackethouse, her son, for love and affection, a grant for life of Kirkleton and Pokes-kine, which was part of the 16 merk land of Blackethouse (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24/113). On 28th May, 1670, she, then a widow, and Walter Bell (callit of Satur), her son-in-law, granted a Bond to Mr William Maxwell of Springkell (*Register of Deeds*, Durie, Vol. 24/13).

John Bell appears to have had at least three sons:—

1. William of Blackethouse, brother of George and Richard (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 487-701) (see below).

2. George Bell, son to John Bell of Blackwoodhouse, who died 3rd February, 16—, according to Mr Carlyle's note of the tomb at Middlebie.

3. Richard of Kirkleton, "son of John Bell, Blackethouse," who died 7th August, 1692, aged 40 years (Tomb, Middlebie). He married Mary Irving, who was infest in an annual rent of £40 out of Kirkleton, 27th July, 1692 (*P.R.S.*). Agnes, his only daughter, served heir general, 17th December, 1713, and was infest in Kirkleton, 14th April, 1714. She married William Armstrong (Middlebie locality, 1750), and Kirkleton was carried to his descendants, David Armstrong and Edward Armstrong, Advocate, his son.

A daughter of John Bell married Walter Bell ("called of Satur"), who was a grantor of the Bond mentioned above. He possibly was Walter, son of William of Albie, who was infest in Dockenflat, and whose first wife was Frances Bell, and who died 19th June, 1709, aged 35 years (see Albie Section).

**WILLIAM BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE.**—In 1664 caution was found for James, Earl of Annandale, that among others he would not harm William Bell of Blackethouse and George and Richard, his brothers (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 487). In 1667, designed as of Blackethouse, he granted a bond for 1000 merks (*Register of Deeds*, 1669, Durie, Vol. 21/74).

In 1669 he was infest on a Feu Charter by James, Earl of Queensberry, of the lands of Blackethouse, Newlands, Johnstoun, Cushethill, Holms of Mein, and of Dockenflat and Williambie, called the Half (or Hass), in the parish of Pennersax; and of Kirtlehead (parish of Carruthers), Congrase, Corneflat, Howithill, and Shiellhill, Darhippes,

Morrels, Yett, and fourth part of the woodlands of Middlebie (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 22/144). In 1670 he granted an annual rent out of Kirtleton to Jean Irving, his mother (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24/113); and in 1671 he granted an annual rent corresponding to 2500 merks out of Blackethouse to George Bell of Godsbrig (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 28/266).

In 1684 he was included in the List of Heritors along with George of Godsbrig and John of Stockbrigs (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

In 1688 by an Excambion he acquired Halse, in Penner-sax Parish; and William Bell of Albie, his father-in-law, got the half merk land of Salter, in Middlebie (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 4/376, 377; *G.R.S.*, Vol. 31/179).

He married Jean Bell, eldest daughter of the said William Bell of Albie (*Register of Deeds*, Durie, 21st November, 1670, Vol. 24/554). By the Marriage Contract (1669) her husband bound himself to infest her in an annual rent of 4000 merks to be uplifted out of Zettis, etc., and to outreik [rig out] her "honestly to her marriage and plenishing of his house as becomes his qualitie and degrie." Her tocher was 2000 merks. Infestment in her favour followed (*G.R.S.*, 24/247). She was infest in Rammersgill, Eshieyard, etc.; and also in Raggetsyke, etc., Haggs, Yeats, Johnstone, Cushethill, Holme of Mean, Morrels, and Dirrups, 27th November, 1696 (*P.R.S.*).

She was buried at Middlebie, but the date on the tomb is illegible.

In Mr Carlyle's notes of the inscriptions at Middlebie Churchyard is entered, "Isabella Kennedy, daughter of Kennedy of Halleaths, spouse of William Bell of Blackethouse, 7th January (?1710)"; but as the lintel at Blackethouse bears the marking 17 G.B.I.K., 14, this points to the probability that Isabella Kennedy was the wife of George, the son of William.

In 1696 a Renunciation was granted by John and Walter Bell, sons to Walter Bell (callit of Neuk), to William of Blackethouse and George, his eldest son, of the lands of Blackeraig, Bankhead, and Craighead, wadset by William for 1000 merks out of Blackethouse (*P.R.S.*, II./329).

He had at least two sons and a daughter:—

1. George of Blackethouse (1677-1725), of whom below.
2. Richard of Auldhall, who married Grizel Wallace (see Auldhall).

3. Janet, daughter of William and Jean, his spouse, who married William Bell, younger of Scotsbrig (*P.R.S.*, 14th May, 1695, Vol. 5 (2), p. 290).

GEORGE BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE.—On 15th May, 1700, then described as “younger of Blackethouse,” he was infeft in an annual rent out of Dockenflat on a Bond by Walter Bell, Portioner of Dockenflat (*P.R.S.*); and was infeft on a Discharge by Richard Bell of Crurie of interest on 400 merks over Dirrops, 1st May, 1712. He disposed Dirrops to John Sharp of Hoddum, being designed in the Disposition as George Bell, younger of Blackethouse. He got a Precept from the Duke of Queensberry, 13th April, 1719, as heir of his father, William in Blackethouse, with the mansion house, Cushethill, Holms of Mein, and Dockenflat, sometime possessed by the deceased William Bell and his tenants (parish of Pennersax); Kirtlehead (parish of Carruthers); and Dirrops, Morrals, and Yetts (*P.R.S.*, 27th April, 1720).

Of the same date the Duke granted a Charter to George in life-rent and William, his son, in fee. George married Janet Irving.

He died on 8th March, 1726, aged 49 years (Tomb, Middlebie), survived by his son, William.

WILLIAM BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE succeeded under the above Charter on the death of his father. He married Margaret Pringle, and is said to have left no children.

On 20th February, 1734, he got a Precept from the Duke of Queensberry as heir to George, his father, in Blackethouse, Newlands, Johnstoun, Cushethill, Holms of Mein, Dockenflat, and Willambie (or the Hass), in Pennersax Parish; Kirtlehead, in Carruthers Parish; and Congris, Conflat, Howathill, Shildhill, Dirrops, Morrals, Yetts, and the woodlands of Middlebie in Middlebie Parish.

He was involved in an unsuccessful litigation with John Gartshore regarding some property in Kelso (Morison's *Dict. of Decisions*, 2848). The family tradition is that, consequent upon the loss of the case, he had to part with the Blackethouse. In 1732 he and Margaret Pringle, his spouse, conveyed part of the estate, consisting of Bankhead, Craighead, Palmersgill, Blacketridge, and Ashyards to Sir William Maxwell of Springkell (*Sheriff Court Books*, 23rd April, 1750); and the remainder, consisting of Blacketlees, with the tower, Cushethill, and Johnstoun, to Benjamin Bell in Woodhouselees (*Books of*



*Session*, 26th November, 1743 ; and *P.R.S.*, 25th June, 1744). In 1763 there was a curious question with the Duke of Queensberry whether each of the lots were liable for a herezeld consisting of the best horse of the vassal (*Signet Library Session Papers*, 70/17).

Benjamin Bell was a son of George Bell of Godsbrig and Scotsbrig, "the Covenanter," by his third marriage to Isobel Bell (see Godsbrig Section). It is stated in various family pedigrees that William, the disposer, was the eldest brother of Benjamin. Any of these pedigrees traced are peculiarly vague and contradictory ; but the error as to the relationship of the parties to the sale probably arose from the fact that Benjamin had a brother William, the eldest son by the Covenanter's first marriage, and who succeeded to Godsbrig in 1691.

BENJAMIN BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE (above referred to) was born in 1680, and farmed Woodhouselee, near Canonbie, a farm belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch. In 1720 he began with William Scott and carried on for many years a trade of purchasing cattle in Scotland and selling them in England (*Maxwell v. Bell*, *Morison's Dict. of Decisions*, 1242) ; and he and Thomas, his son, in 1755 were in partnership in the same trade, in one case alone making a purchase of £1050 stg. of cattle (*Signet Library Session Papers*, F., 20/8). He married Rebecca, daughter of Captain Graham, Breckonhill, Cumberland. He died in 1762 (*Test.*, 15th September, 1762). By his Will (*Sheriff Court Books*, 26th April, 1762), on the narrative that he had from his own industry acquired a small estate which he had resolved to settle upon his heirs, both to prevent all disputes thereanent among his children, and to preserve the same from being squandered away or alienated, he conveyed Blackethouse to Thomas, his eldest son, in life-rent, and Benjamin Bell, surgeon in Edinburgh, his grandson, in fee (*P.R.S.*, 4th August, 1762). A Warrant was granted by the Court of Session to the Commissary Clerk, Dumfries, to transmit a Disposition relating to an action by Rebecca Graham, relict of Benjamin Bell of Blackwoodhouse, against William Currie Carlyle of Bridekirk and Benjamin Bell, eldest son of George Bell in Woodhouselees, and the said George as his administrator-in-law, which Disposition (dated 1762) was granted by Rebecca to her said grandson, Benjamin, to have the same recorded (*Commissary Court Books*, 29th June, 1763 ; Bundle, 1762).

The particulars as to the descendants of Benjamin Bell are derived from different family trees.

His children were :—

1. Thomas Bell of Blackethouse. Under his father's Will he had the estate for life. He married Eliza, daughter of William Scott of Meikledale, and died in September, 1770, without issue. She granted a renunciation of her annuity in 1789 (*P.R.S.*). His inventory was given up by his brother George as executor dative, 23rd April and 14th May, 1770.

2. Anne, who married John Mouat, surgeon, Langholm.

3. Rebecca, who married Captain John Mead.

4. Isabella, who married Bryce Blair of Potterflats.

5. Benjamin, captain, Merchant Marine.

6. George, who was born in 1722. He lost money in the Levant trade, and in succession to his father became tenant of Woodhouselees, which he farmed from 1763 till his death. In 1747 he married Anne (1725-1817), daughter of James Corrie of Speddock, merchant and Provost of Dumfries. He appears to have been the George Bell who was Provost of Dumfries in 1745 (*Records of Corrie Family*, I., 218, 229). He served heir in general to his father, Benjamin, 31st August, 1767. He died in 1813. He had fifteen children, of whom the eldest son was Benjamin.

BENJAMIN BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE succeeded to the estate under the Will of Benjamin, his grandfather. He was born at Dumfries in 1749, and rose to great eminence as a surgeon in Edinburgh (*Anderson's Scottish Nation*, I., 273; *Life* by Benjamin Bell, his grandson). In 1775 he sold Blackethouse to John Carruthers of Braes, and in 1798 Cushet-hill to James Irving of Allerbeck. He applied the price in the education of himself and the younger members of the family. He died in 1806. His descendants are traced in *Alexander Cowan and His Family*, by C. Boag Watson, privately printed in 1915. Among his descendants was his biographer (his grandson, Dr Benjamin Bell, 1810-1883), who married Cecilia Craigie, and was the father of Joseph Bell (1837-1911), the famous surgeon and the prototype of *Sherlock Holmes*.

#### GODSBRIG AND SCOTSBRIG.

Middlebie Parish.

As pointed out in previous pages, the probability is that in early days Blackethouse and Godsbrig were held together, and possibly with Albie.



At the Warden Court at Berwick, 1587, there were complaints against Walter Graham of Netherby and others for burning Godsbrig and harrying 300 kyne, 4000 sheep and goats, and 500 horses. Mr T. J. Carlyle (*Debatable Land*, pp. 14, 15, and 17) assumes that Godsbrig at that time belonged to William Bell of Blackethouse.

Considerable confusion is caused in tracing the members of this family, from the fact that they are sometimes designed as "of Godsbrig" and sometimes as "of Scotsbrig." They held a 4 merk land of the Earl of Nithsdale known as Scotsbrig, and a 2 merk land of the Earl of Annandale known as Godsbrig, and comprising Grainhall, Darglahills, Langlands, Inner Stainbeck, and Hall Croft. Scotsbrig must not be confused with the lands of Stockbridge.

The perplexity is added to consequent on various transactions between the families of Blackethouse and Godsbridge, which, so far as can be gathered, appear to have been of the nature of securities granted by the former to the latter, and which seem to have been assumed in previous family pedigrees to have been absolute conveyances.

RONALD (OR RANY) BELL OF GODSBRIG, who flourished in the latter part of the sixteenth and the earlier part of the seventeenth centuries, was probably the brother of Will Bell of Blackethouse (called "Redcloak") and the son of Jok Bell of Albie.

In 1598 David Bell, brother of Rany Bell of Goddisbrig, pledge for the good rule of the Bells, escaped from the custody of Alexander Bruce of Airth, in Stirlingshire, to whom he had been intrusted (*R.P.C.*, V., 544). In 1607 Rany Bell of Godsbrig and William Bell of Blackethouse were charged to find lawburrows (*R.P.C.*, VIII., 272). Ronald Bell of Godsbrig and Thomas Bell, Minister of Middlebie, were witnesses to a Sasine of Matthew Hairstens, 29th March, 1610. In 1613 Raine Bell of Godsbrig and David Bell (called Oswellis Davie—probably a son of Oswald Bell of the Hill or Middlebiehill) were accused of assaulting servants at Risphill (*R.P.C.*, X., 116). He and Will Redcloak were in 1622 sureties for Walter Bell of Middlebiehill (*R.P.C.*, XIII., 739); and Rany, described as "in Godsbrig," with Walter Bell, younger of Nuik, were cautioners for Walter Bell (called Osuellis Wattie) (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 675).

WALTER BELL OF GODSBRIG.—He was the brother of

William of Blackethouse and son of "Redcloak." He was a cautioner in 1622 (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 675). In 1631 a Feu Charter was granted by William, Viscount of Drumlanrig, to Walter Bell in Godsbrig and his heirs bearing the name of Bell of the lands of Downambie in Carruthers Parish and Dockenflat in Pennersax Parish, then occupied and possessed by him under reservation of the life-rent of Agnes Grahame, relict of William Bell of Blackethouse, of the lands of Nether Dunabie, and of Nicol Douglas, relict of Thomas Bell, son of Thomas Bell, son of the said William, of the lands of Over Dunabie (*P.R.S.*, Vol. III., 131).

In the same year he, as heritable proprietor, granted a Wadset on Dockenflat to John Bell in Auldbie and Blench Irving, his spouse, and Thomas Bell, their second son (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/132).

Also in 1631 William, Viscount Drumlanrig, granted to him a Wadset of the 4 merk lands of the 10 merk lands of Middlebie, called Godsbrig, then possessed by him and his tenants, which Wadset he renounced in the same year (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/132 and 159).

JOHN BELL OF GODSBRIG.—He probably was the son of Walter. He married Sibilla Irving, who predeceased him in June, 1676, her Testament being given up on 8th August, 1676, by him and on behalf of their bairns:—

1. William;
2. Robert;
3. George (afterwards of Godsbrig);
4. Marie;
5. Sibilla; and
6. Agnes.

According to the Inventory at the Register House of Dumfries Deeds, p. 232, on 7th May, 1692, William Bell of Scotsbrig granted an Assignment to Isobel Bell, relict of John Bell of Scotsbrig. This entry may point to the re-marriage of John.

GEORGE BELL OF GODSBRIG AND SCOTSBRIG (known as "The Covenanter").—Born 1624, died 1691.

In 1658, by a Wadset, Robert Maxwell of Middlebie bound himself to infest George Bell of Godsbrig in the 4 merk land of Godsbrig, redeemable under reversion, the latter having lent £1000 Scots to the former, Ranald and Francis Bell in Purdomstown being witnesses (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/81). This

transaction was confirmed by a Charter by Robert, Earl of Nithsdale, to George Bell on 14th June, 1659; but from certain proceedings in 1683 it is not clear whether George Bell acquired absolute right to the lands or whether they were redeemed.

In 1662 George Bell in Godsbrig was fined £1000 Scots for his connection with the Covenants, dating back to 1648 (*Acts Parl.*, VII., 422).

In 1664 James, Earl of Annandale, was bound not to harm George Bell in Godsbrig and William, John, George, and Richard, his sons (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 701).

Also in 1664 George Bell in Godsbrig was accused of the alleged murder of Walter Bell in Neuk—who, however, had only been wounded. William, Lord Drumlanrig, took proceedings against George Bell on the ground that he dwelt within the regality of Drumlanrig, but George stated that he held his lands of the Earls of Nithsdale and Annandale (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 560, 577, 683).

On 23rd November, 1671, George Bell of Godsburgh was infest in an annual rent corresponding to 2500 merks out of Blackethouse, granted by William Bell of Blackethouse, the Notary being Robert Bell, Clerk of the Diocese of Glasgow (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 28, p. 266).

On 26th March, 1677, he was infest in the 5 merk land of Blackethouse, but under reversion on a precept by the Earl of Queensberry (*P.R.S.*, II., p. 180).

He was a heritor in 1684 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

He appears to have been married three times:—

Firstly, to Sibella Irving, who, described as spouse of George Bell of Godsbrig, got Sasine in these lands in 1663 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 6, p. 292). By this marriage there were seven children:—

1. William of Godsbrig (below).

2. Richard, second son of George of Godsbrig, who on 15th March, 1678, was infest in the house and manor of Blackethouse, then possessed by William of Blackethouse under a Wadset dated 25th January, 1678, granted by the latter for 4000 merks (*P.R.S.*, II., 263). Janet Bell, daughter of Walter Bell in Winterhopehead, spouse of Richard, was on 17th June, 1678, infest in an annual rent out of Blackethouse in virtue of their Marriage Contract, dated 20th May, 1676, in which George of Godsbrig had bound himself to infest her (*P.R.S.*,

II., 287). In 1683 his father assigned to Janet Bell, spouse to Richard Bell, then indweller in Carlisle, in life-rent, and George, their son, in fee, an annual rent out of Stank (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/289 and 301).

3. George, who in 1696 got the Bond over Woolcots (after referred to) from William, his brother (Sasine registered 23rd October, 1697).

4. Jean, the eldest daughter, who married William Johnstone of Broomhouses, their Marriage Contract being dated 9th September, 1664, in which George of Godsbrig bound himself to pay 2700 merks as tocher. Jean died not long after, and a Submission was entered into on 5th July, 1667, between George of Godsbrig for himself and for John Richard, George, Mary, Agnes, and Sibella, his bairns, executors of their eldest sister, and John Carrlell of New Park, the husband of Mary, of the one part, and William Johnstoun of the other part, as to the tocher, for which by Decree following thereon George was found liable (*Register of Deeds*, 10th January, 1668, Dalrymple's Office, Vol. 21, p. 556). A Discharge of the tocher was granted on 14th December, 1668, by William Johnstoun to George of Godsbrig and John Bell of Crowdieknowe, his cautioner (*Register of Deeds*, 12th February, 1669, Vol. 24, p. 664).

5. Mary, who married John Carlyll of New Park.

6. Agnes.

7. Sibella, who married Richard Bell of Crurie. Marriage Contract, 9th April, 1675 (*Commissary Court Books*, 20th January, 1718).

George of Godsbrig married, secondly, Susanna Irving, probably a daughter of William Irving of Woolcots. She died in June, 1682. Her Testament was recorded at Dumfries on 8th August, 1684, being given up by George Bell, her husband, on behalf of her only son—

8. John, who in 1682 got a bond for 4500 merks from William Irving of Woolcots (Sasine registered 14th September, 1682; *P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/464). He died before 22nd January, 1697, as his brother, William Bell of Scotsbrig, then served heir of provision to him, described as "Son of George Bell of Scotsbrig," in the above security over Woolcots and Ecclefechan (*Retours, Dumfries*, 348).

George Bell married, thirdly, Isobel Bell, who died on 13th May, 1736, aged 78 years (Middlebie Aisle).

On 24th March, 1690, he granted a Disposition in favour of the younger children of himself and Isobel, his spouse, of an annual rent of £180 Scots, corresponding to a capital sum of 4500 merks, out of the £10 land of Oulcotes and £5 land of Ecclefechan, in the parish of Ecclefechan, being apparently the Bond already referred to, on which they were infest on 15th September, 1697 (*P.R.S.*, Vol. V., ii., p. 455).

The children mentioned in these deeds were:—

9. Benjamin (1680-1762), who bought Blackethouse (see that heading), described in the above Sasine in 1697 as a “discreit young youth.”

10. Thomas.

11. Margaret.

12. Jean, who may have been “Jane Bell of Scotsbrig,” who died 15th October, 1738, aged 60 years, and who married James Carlyle of Brakenquhat, who died 11th September, 1734, aged 87 years (*Rammerscales Memorial*).

George Bell died 28th April, 1691, aged 67 years (Tomb, Middlebie Aisle), and his Testament was registered 2nd June, 1691, the Inventory being given up by William Bell, then of Godsbridge, his eldest son.

WILLIAM BELL OF GODSBRIG.—On 2nd June, 1677, described as eldest son of George of Godsbrig, in virtue of an obligation by his father on his marriage he was infest in the four pound land of Dunnabie, the four merk land of Godsbrig held of the Earl of Nithsdale, and the two merk land [Scotsbrig] held of the Earl of Annandale under reservation of his father's life-rent in the two merk land (*P.R.S.*, Vol. II., 198).

He married Janet, daughter of John Bell of Crowdieknowe, the Marriage Contract being dated 14th February, 1660 (*P.R.S.*, Vol. II., 198, and Vol. IV., 353). She is mentioned in the Testament, 16th February, 1720, of Walter Bell of Torbeckhill, her brother. He and his wife were infest in Greengaithouse in 1663 on a Wadset by James, Earl of Annandale (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 5, 215).

He on 27th September, 1694, served heir to George, his father, in Dunabie, in the parish of Carruthers, and Godsbrig called Grahamshall, Darglahills, Langlands, and Innerstainbeck, and half a croft in Morairighead (*Retours*, Dumfries, 340). On 17th May, 1692, he granted an obligation to Isobel Bell, relict of John Bell of Scotsbrig (Inventory at Register House, of Dumfries Deeds, p. 232). On 17th March, 1703, William

Bell and William Bell, junior, of Scotsbrig granted a Bond to Walter Bell of Torbeckhill.

WILLIAM BELL OF SCOTSBRIG, son of William, was infeft in Scotsbrig and Dunnabie, 17th October, 1710 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 99, 32).

He married Jean Bell, daughter of William Bell of Blacket-house and Jean Bell, his spouse, as in a Bond granted by them William Bell, younger of Scotsbrig, described as their son-in-law, was Cautioner (*P.R.S.*, 28th June, 1695, Vol. 2, 290). She was infeft in a life-rent out of Scotsbrig and Dunnabie (*P.R.S.*, 2nd April, 1712).

In 1715 he erected a monument in the Middlebie Aisle with the Bell Arms. A fragment of a long Latin inscription still remains.

He appears to have been in financial difficulties about 1719, as there were various Decrees against him for sums borrowed and the price of cattle, for which William Johnston of Penlaw was Cautioner (*Acts and Decrees*, Mackenzie, Vols. 223 (i.), 227 (iii.), and 229 (i.) and (ii.). In that year John Bell of Crowdieknowe—possibly to ease the financial position—was infeft in two merk lands of Scotsbrig, apparently half of the four merk land (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 113/320).

On 21st February, 1722, the Duke of Queensberry granted a Precept to William Bell of Scotsbrig, as heir of George in Scotsbrig, of the lands of Dunnabie. On 24th March, 1742, George, Marquis of Annandale, granted him a Precept as heir to his grandfather, George, in the two merk land of Godsbrig, sometimes called Grainhall, Darglahills, Langlands, Inner Stoneybeck, and Hall Croft, lying in the Morrelrighead (*P.R.S.*, 20th December, 1743).

He died in November, 1744, his Testament being recorded 31st July, 1745, with later eiks. His daughters, Agnes and Anne, were his executors dative *qua* creditors, in so far as the defunct by his Disposition and Assignment of 23rd January, 1744, bequeathed the contents of his house at Scotsbrig. From his Inventory it appears he drew rents for Dunnabie, Greengatehouse, Greenhill, Darglahills, Stonybeck, Tonguehead, and Purdomstoun. His whole personal estate was £132 19s 10d.

It was stated in teind papers that in 1753 Greengatehouse was wadset from the Marquis of Annandale and his predecessors to the late William Bell of Scotsbrig and his predecessors, but was redeemed "some years ago." This



wadset was referred to in a Summons of Adjudication by Walter Johnston in Kirkwood against William Bell, dated 27th February, 1719 (*Decrees*, Mackenzie, Vol. 227 (iii.)).

From the Decree of Division of Middlebie Commonty, 11th January, 1774 (*Decrees*, Mackenzie), it appears that his daughters and heirs portioners in 1753 were :—

1. Jean, who appears to have married Peter Graham in Whitcastles (*Queensberry v. Vassals*, Mackenzie's *Decrees*, Vol. 445).

2. Janet (or Jane), who married John Bell of Whitstonehill. She died in February, 1768, aged 68 years (Tomb, Carruthers).

3. Sybella, who appears to have married Richard Bell in Dunabie (above *Decrees*).

4. Helen, who married John Bell in Potstown, who got a feu of Nether Albie in 1748 (see that section).

5. Agnes, who married Walter Bell in Neuck, 8th June, 1747 (*Middlebie Register*).

6. Ann, who married Mr John Lowrie, minister, Middlebie, 8th November, 1748 (*Middlebie Register*). She died on 28th May, 1797, aged 85 years (*Fasti*, II., 253). He died in 1762. The births of their children are in the *Middlebie Register*.

Scotsbrig—or at least part of the lands—was about 1756 sold to Alexander Goldie, W.S., on behalf of the Duke of Queensberry and George Clark Maxwell of Middlebie, between whom the purchased property was divided by Decree of Division, 22nd December, 1758 (*Books of Session*, I.K., 26th June, 1759). In 1788 the Maxwell share, in addition to Middlebie, included Darglawhill, Scotsbrig, Stoneybeck, Pottstown, Walls, and Peatknowes.

JOHN BELL.—The Bells do not appear to have parted with the whole of Scotsbrig, for John Bell in Scotsbrig, on 5th June, 1765, got a Feu Charter of Dunabie from the sister of John Graham, the purchaser of the Crowdieknowe property. John Bell, "portioner of Scotsbrig," died 21st February, 1772, aged 71 years. He married Elizabeth Bell, who died in 1781, aged 83 years. Their son, John Bell, died on 12th April, 1788, aged 51 years (Tomb, Ecclefechan).

Scotsbrig farm of 220 acres came to be associated with the name of Thomas Carlyle. It was tenanted by his family, and there he frequently lived (*The Carlyle Country*, by J. M. Sloan).

**DUNNABIE.**

Carruthers Parish.

The earlier history of these lands has been incidentally dealt with in the Blackethouse and Godsbrig sections.

WILLIAM BELL OF BLACKETHOUSE ("Redcloak") appears to have owned Dunnabie, as his widow, Agnes Graham, was infeft in Nether Dunnabie.

THOMAS BELL OF DUNABIE was the son of William of Blackethouse and grandson of "Redcloak." He married Nicolas Douglas, who was infeft in Over Dunnabie (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/159). He died before 2nd July, 1630, when the gift of tutory of Jean and Elizabeth Bell, his daughters, was granted to George Rig, servitor to the Earl of Queensberry (Writ at Drumlanrig).

The Testament of William Bell in Dunnabie, who died in May, 1626, was recorded on 7th July, 1630 (Vol. I.A, 241), his Inventory being given up by Walter, his second son; William Bell of Blackethouse being Cautioner. He may have been the brother of Thomas.

WALTER BELL IN GODSBRIG AND OF DUNNABIE, a younger son of "Redcloak," got a Feu Charter and was infeft in Dunnabie in 1631.

JOHN BELL OF DUNNABIE is mentioned in 1664 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 701), and from the connection between Dunnabie and Godsbrig (or Scotsbrig) it may be conjectured that he was John Bell of Godsbrig and son of Walter, who married Sibella Irving, who died in June, 1676, survived by her husband.

GEORGE BELL OF GODSBRIG ("the Covenanter") (1624-91) owned the property, and bound himself in the Marriage Contract of 14th February, 1660, of his eldest son,

WILLIAM BELL OF SCOTSBRIG AND DUNNABIE, to infeft him *inter alia* in Dunnabie on his marriage to Janet, daughter of John Bell of Crowdieknowe (*P.R.S.*, 2nd June, 1677, II., 198). She was infeft in 1688 in an annual rent out of Dunnabie and Godsbrig (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 4/353). He served heir to his father in 1694 in Dunnabie and Godsbrig. William Bell of Dunnabie was on the Roll of Heritors in 1684 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

WILLIAM BELL (his son) OF SCOTSBRIG AND DUNNABIE, who married Janet, daughter of William Bell of Blackethouse, was infeft in these lands in 1710. At the time of his death



(Testament, 31st July, 1745) rents of Dunnabie were included in his Inventory. His daughters were his heirs portioners.

JOHN BELL, LAST OF CROWDIEKNOWE, on 4th June, 1719, served heir to his uncle, Walter Bell of Torbeckhill, in 2600 merks over Dunnabie and Greengatehouse. He must have become proprietor, for he brought a Decree of Sale of the teinds in 1761. Subsequent to the acquisition of his estates by John Graham, his sister and heiress, Margaret Graham of Crowdieknowe, on 5th June, 1765, disposed Dunnabie to

JOHN BELL OF SCOTSBRIG AND DUNNABIE, who died on 3rd November, 1783, and whose Testament was recorded on 5th November, 1792, and 14th February, 1800. His tombstone at Carruthers has as arms a chevron between three bells, annulet on chevron; crest an arm embowed, vested (ending in a rosette) barwise, holding a quill pen between the first and second fingers (*Dumfries Antiquarian Society*, 1912-13, p. 108).

He married Agnes Johnston, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of James Johnston of Wyliehole, on 10th June, 1764 (*Middlebie Register*). Her sister, Grizel, married Thomas Bell (*Middlebie Commonly Decree*, p. 163).

John Bell had five children:—

1. Sibella, baptised 2nd May, 1765.
2. Richard, baptised 10th June, 1766.
3. Ann, baptised 16th November, 1767.
4. William, baptised 10th November, 1768.
5. John, baptised 15th June, 1771.

RICHARD BELL OF DUNNABIE, his eldest son and heir, and who was his executor, was served heir at Dumfries on 7th November, 1789 (*P.R.S.*, 20th October, 1795). He had a litigation in 1800 with his uncle, Thomas Bell of Wyliehole, who in 1791 sold half of that property, the inheritance of his wife, Grizel Johnston, to his nephew, who already had the other half (*Signet Library Session Papers*, 418/66).

He married Isabel Anne Beattie, daughter of Thomas Beattie of Crieve. They had two children—Helen, baptised 1st December, 1792; and John, 1st September, 1794 (*Middlebie Register*).

JOHN BELL OF DUNNABIE, his only son, got a Charter and Precept from the Duke of Queensberry (*P.R.S.*, 31st October, 1818). He married (Marriage Contract, 23rd April, 1827) Charlotte Hughes Niven or Hutchison of Kirkleton, daughter of the deceased David Niven of Kirkleton and relict of Hugh

Doig Hutchison of Southfield. He disposed to George Graham of Shaw on 6th November, 1829, who conveyed to James Graham, his second son, who died on 15th May, 1862. John Bell died about 1837 without issue. His sister, Helen Bell, married James Hope Stewart of Gillenbie.

**NEUK (afterwards known as Broadlea).**

**Pennersax Parish.**

**WILLIAM BELL OF NEUK** (described as "in Neuk") was a witness in 1574 (*R.M.S.*, Vol. 1546-80, No. 2364). In 1583 a Bond was granted by William Bell of the Nook and William Bell of Blackethouse for Rany and Watty Bell, "their brether" (*Annandale MSS.*, p. 31); but, as elsewhere pointed out, it seems improbable that two brothers alive at the same time both bore the name of William. In the same year Will Bell (called Willie of the Neuk) was a fugitive from justice (*R.P.C.*, III., 638). In 1585 William Bell in Neuk and Ranie, John, and Wat, "his brether," were pardoned for taking part in the raid to Stirling (*Acts Parl.*, III., 387).

The following members of the family have been noted, but from the materials available it has been found impossible to trace the exact relationships:—

On the Map of the Borders (1590) showing the Tower and Stone Houses (*Archæologia*, Vol. 22, 161) one of the residences is marked "Watty Bell of ye Nuke," the other houses being merely indicated by names of places, not of persons.

In 1631 Walter Bell, elder in Neuk, and Walter, his son, were witnesses (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/130, 131, etc.).

In 1622 Walter Bell, younger of Nook, was a Cautioner (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 675), and on 3rd April, 1657, his Testament was recorded by Mary Bell, his relict, for Walter and Mary, their bairns.

In 1664 George Bell of Godsbrig was accused of the slaughter of Walter Bell in Neuk, but who apparently was only wounded (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 560, 577, 683).

In 1670 Walter Bell, son to George Bell (callit of Neuk), acted as procurator for John Bell of Albie (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24, 111).

In 1678 William, Earl of Queensberry, granted a Wadset for 2500 merks to John Bell, son of David Bell (called of Newk), over Setthornes, in Carruthers Parish (*P.R.S.*, 16th October, 1679), which was discharged on 7th April, 1686.

Walter Bell of Neuk in 1682 got a Wadset from William

of Blackethouse over Johnstone and Cushethill (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 3/226).

In 1684 Walter Bell of Neuk was a heritor (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

John Bell (called of Nouck) was bailie in an infeftment (*P.R.S.*, 18th February, 1687).

John and Walter Bell, sons to Walter Bell (callit of Neuk), granted a Discharge to William Bell of Blackethouse and George, his eldest son, of the lands of Blackeraig, Bankhead, and Craighead, wadset by William Bell, with consent of Jean Bell, his spouse, 28th February, 1696.

On the tombstone at Pennersaugh the following deaths are recorded :—

John Bell in Neuk and Mary Bell, his spouse, had a daughter, Mary, who died on 16th May, 1697, aged 19 years.

Walter Bell in Neuk died on 29th September, 1712, aged 60 years, the tombstone bearing the arms—3 bells.

Isabella Bell, his spouse, died 1776, aged 107 years. She must have been the Sybella Bell who in 1762 presented the Petition set forth below.

Walter Bell, their son, died in December, 1753, aged 58 years. He probably was the Walter Bell in Nuick who married Agnes Bell in Scotsbridge, 8th June, 1747 (*Middlebie Register*). She was a daughter of William of Scotsbrig.

John Bell of Neuk died 13th April, 1850, aged 64 years. He and his wife, Janet Davidson, had the following children :—

1. Helen Bell, born 1804.
2. William Bell, born 1807, merchant in New Orleans, U.S.A.; died 30th November, 1838, aged 30 years.
3. Thomas Bell, born 1809, Captain 2nd Regiment Bengal Native Infantry; died 18th August, 1841, aged 32 years.
4. George Irving Bell, born 1811.
5. John Davidson Bell, born 1811 (George and John being twins).
6. Mary Bell, born 1813.
7. Another daughter, born 1819.
8. Another son.
9. Richard Bell.
- 10 and 11. Two other sons (*Middlebie Register*).

In the *Dumfries Courier* of 23rd May, 1896, there is a notice stating that the last of the Neuk Bells, Richard, died at London on 7th May, and that he was the sixth of the eight

sons of John Bell of Broadlea (formerly Neuk), the sons and three daughters being all dead, leaving one daughter living. It was stated that the Bells of Neuk were a branch of the Springkell and Blackethouse Bells, and proprietors of Neuk until 1762, when on the death of the proprietor, according to the then feudal right, it reverted to the Superior, the Duke of Buccleuch. The Bells, however, still continued in the Neuk, and Richard was born there in 1822. The article stated that he was twice married—(1) to a daughter of Mr Walker, W.S., Dundee; and (2) to a daughter of Major and Mrs St. John Knight of Windsor Castle.

The Note Book of the late Mr Thomas Johnstone Carlyle contains a copy of a Petition of Sybella Bell (apparently Isabella Bell, the wife of Walter) to the Duchess of Queensberry and Dover ("Prior's Kitty"), made in 1762, in the following terms, which throws some light on the tenure of lands in the district :—

"HUMBLY SHEWETH,—

"That your Petitioner, an old woman nearly 90 years of age, is the widow of Walter Bell, whose predecessors were proprietors of the Ten merk land of Neuk for some hundreds of years, comprehending several small farms now (1762) worth about £70 or £80 a year.

"That your Petitioner's husband's grandfather having with his own hand (then suffering from melancholy) brought himself to an untimely end, by which, according to the rigour of the Scots law, his lands became escheat [forfeited] to the family of Queensberry, the Superiors thereof. But as never any instance occurred hitherto where such law was put to its utmost stretch, therefore our Noble Superiors did not eject his successors; but the lands were to be redisposed and the title deeds thereof were given to the doers of the Noble Family of Queensberry for that purpose. Matters lay for some time, but my husband's father died, and my husband, being then an infant, came under the tutorship of friends who had little skill in business or great anxiety for the welfare of their pupil, and they made some kind of transaction whereby they became bound to pay a feu-duty for the whole land of about £8 per annum; but instead of getting (from the Superior) an absolute right, what they obtained was only of the nature of a lease, but yet my husband was always considered as proprietor by

the whole country, and was so designed in the receipts by His Grace's Chamberlains.

"My husband dying and leaving me with a family of small children, and having no friend to assist or take care of us, by degrees our whole lands (excepting a small farm—the Mains of Neuk) were wrested from us, and we were only allowed to keep that at a rent of £4 as a favour.

"Twelve years ago the rent was raised to £16, and reduced by Lord Shewalton to £12. Two years ago it was raised to £26, which will root us out unless preserved by His Grace's goodness. These facts known to former managers, Sir Wm. Douglas, Lord Glasgow, Mr Douglas of Dornock, Mr Douglas of Cavers, and by the universal tradition of the country.

"I humbly pray your Grace that your Grace would interpose and preserve to me this small remains of the possessions of our forefathers at a reasonable rent, or give such relief as your own good heart shall suggest.

"SYBELLA BELL."

#### THE HILL (or Middlebiehill).

Middlebie Parish.

These lands lay to the north of Middlebie Kirk, and were possessed by members of the Bell clan, though no traces have been found of Feu Charters granted to them.

DAVID BELL OF MIDDLEBIE.—In 1459 he was tried and acquitted, his Cautioners being Thomas Bell of Bagthropple and Thomas Bell of Kowholm (*Exchequer Rolls*, VI., 554).

In 1504 he was surety, along with Alexander Stewart of Castlemilk, for Thomas Bell of the Broom and Thomas Bell of Curre, who were charged with the murder of Simon Carruthers of Mouswald (*MSS. Justiciary Records*, Vol. I., Soc. Antiq., Scot., 1888-89, p. 44).

OSWALD BELL OF THE HILL.—In 1583 the lieges were warned not to harbour Oswald and Watte Bell in Middlebiehill (*R.P.C.*, III., 638). In 1585 he took part in the Raid to Stirling (Acts Parl., III., 387). In 1589 Watte of Middlebiehill is again mentioned (*Border Papers*, I., 558), and may have been a brother or the son of Oswald mentioned below. Oswald in 1598 was charged with the theft of cattle from Closeburn, etc. (*R.P.C.*, V., 262; *Border Papers*, I., 420); but in the same year Sir James Johnstone of Dunskeillie and others lay

in wait for him, John Bell (called the Hoig), and Fergy Bell, his brother, men of Sir James Douglas, "and cruellie and schamfullie slew the said umquhile Oswald" (*R.P.C.*, V., 456/8; *Birrell's Diary*, 44; *Annandale Book*, cxxxii.).

Oswald had at least three sons—Walter, John, and David:—

1. Walter Bell, son of Oswald of the Hill, in 1608 was charged with attacking servants of James Johnstoun of that ilk at Minsca, he being in company with "Redcloak" and the sons of the latter (*R.P.C.*, VIII., 120). In 1622 Walter Bell of Middlebiehill was asked to take a charge in the wars under the Duke of Argyll, and expressed his willingness to serve in Flanders or elsewhere, but had first to apply for the relief of the cautioners for his compearance—Kany Bell of Godsbrig and Will Redcloak (*R.P.C.*, XIII., 739). His proposed military exploits do not appear to have developed, for in the following year Watt Bell (called Oswallis Wattie) was accused of stealing a mare from Wyliehole, with the result that he was "fyllit of baith" (*i.e.*, found guilty). Shortly afterwards he was sentenced to be hanged for theft (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 705, 713).

2. John Bell.—In 1611 a number of Bells were tried at Dumfries, and John, son to Osell Bell of the Hill, was "convict and execute" (*R.P.C.*, IX., 712, 714).

3. David Bell (called Oiswellis Davie) was accused of assaulting servants at Risphill (*R.P.C.*, X., 116).

WILLIAM BELL IN MIDDLEBIEHILL.—He and Thomas Bell ("callit of the Kirk") and Geordie, Walter, and Ritchie, his brothers, were in 1617 among those accused of assaulting the wife and brother of John Carlile in Souplebank (*R.P.C.*, XI., 211).

RICHARD BELL IN MIDDLEBIEHILL.—On 24th October, 1667, he and John Bell in Minsca granted an obligation; Walter, son of John, and William, brother of Richard, being witnesses (*Register of Deeds*, Durie, V. 19, p. 54).

#### CASTLEBANK.

#### Ecclefechan Parish.

About 1600 Ritchie Bell of Castlebank is mentioned (*R.P.C.*, VII., 138).

In 1617 a complaint was lodged against John Bell of Castlebank and Walter, Ritchie, William, Francie, and Thomas,

his brothers; and separately against Walter Bell in Castlebank and Ritchie, William, and Francie, his brothers, obviously the brothers of the said John (*R.P.C.*, XI., 211).

In 1622 John in (or of) Castlebank and Walter, his brother, were cautioners for Francie in Cleuchbrae, their brother (*R.P.C.*, XIV., 675-710).

#### MIDDLEBIE TENANTS.

The following names of those associated with different farms have been taken from the Parish Registers between 1744 and 1819. The list is not exhaustive.

##### DARLAHILLS (SCOTSBRIG).

Richard Bell had a daughter, Janet, born 1761.

Robert and Mary Bell had Helen Blake (1776), Margaret (1782), and John (1782).

John Bell had a daughter, Janet (1782).

##### GRAINHALL (SCOTSBRIG).

George Bell and Margaret Dinwoodie had John (1745), William (1748), and Richard (1749).

William and Elizabeth Bell, married 1767, had John (1768), Mary (1770), Bettie (1772), and Janet (1782).

##### PURDOMSTOWN (SCOTSBRIG).

William Bell and Helen Little had Janet, the eldest (1732), Jean (1734), John (1736), William (1741), Mary (1743), Christopher (1745), and George (1749).

Thomas Bell and Betty Little had Richard (1749) and John (1752).

John Bell married Mary Hope in Failford (1763), and had William (1764).

##### POTSTOWN (SCOTSBRIG).

John and Helen Bell had Richard (1747) and Helen (1750).

##### PENNERSAUGHS.

Robert Bell and Nicholas Thomson, married 1763, had Agnes (1764), Margaret (1766), Mary (1769), Robert (1772), and John (1775).

##### WATERBECK.

Adam Bell and I. Irving had a daughter, Agnes (1747).



**HASS.**

Adam Bell had a son, Christopher (1750).

John Bell had John (1768), Jean (1769), and John (1771).

**WHITEHILL.**

William Bell and Janet (or Jean) Byers had Agnes (1749), Janet (1750), and William (1758).

**CROWDIEKNOWE.****Carruthers Parish.**

The Lands and Barony of Crowdieknowe formed the north-west portion of Carruthers Parish.

No trace has been found of the original acquisition of the property, but as early as 1569 there was a pledge for the branch of the Bells of Carruthers (*R.P.C.*, II., 50). In a written Statement made by Peter Bell in Minsca in 1773, now in the possession of Dr George J. R. Carruthers, Edinburgh, the first of the family mentioned was—

JOHN BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE, of whom he said he could give no further account, save that he was the father of Thomas Bell of Crowdieknowe. He probably was a son of Jok Bell of Albie and a brother of Will of Blackethouse ("Redcloak").

THOMAS BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE, who was born 1581, and died 26th November, 1646, aged 65 years (Tomb at Carruthers). His Testament was on 26th January, 1657, given up by John, his eldest son, for himself, and Walter, George, Thomas, and Richard, bairns, and only executors by Decree. His moveable estate was valued at £486 8s, including 12 kyne, 40 sheep, and 3 horses.

It was stated by Peter Bell that Thomas married (about 1635 or 1640) Bessie (or Elizabeth) Bell, daughter of Andrew Bell, commonly called "Goose-driver," *i.e.*, writer, by whom "he got the weight of herself in gold" for her portion, which relieved Crowdieknowe of debt. He must, however, have been previously married, judging from the dates of birth of his children.

The five sons mentioned in the Testament were:—

1. John of Crowdieknowe (1620-86) (below).

2. Walter (1626-94), who died on 12th May, 1694, aged 68 years (Tomb, Carruthers). He was infeft in Cowancleugh-head and Lambhills in Corrie Parish, in 1657 and 1664, on Wadsets by the Earls of Annandale (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 8/119; and



*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/19). He occupied Britleys, on Crowdieknowe Estate, in 1670 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24/103).

3. Thomas of Minsca (1642-93), said to have been the third son (see Minsca Section).

4. George in Dockenflat, "portioner of Minsca," who was witness to the Sasine of his brother Richard. He granted a Bond for 700 merks to John Bell, last of Crowdieknowe (*P.R.S.*, 18th July, 1710), renounced by the latter on 8th September, 1713 (*P.R.S.*).

5. Richard Bell of Crurie (1645-1714).—In 1670 Richard Bell, brother german to John Bell of Croudieknowe, was a witness to an Assignment by John Bell of Albie to Thomas Bell in Townhead of Carruthers (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24, p. 111). On 20th February, 1677, Richard Bell in Townhead of Carruthers was infeft in half of Minsca and Risphill under reversion of £1000 Scots under a Disposition of 27th September, 1670, by John Bell of Crowdieknowe, whose son Thomas was a witness thereto (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 2, p. 174). On 28th March, 1687, Richard Bell, then in Voulcoates, was infeft in half of Crurie (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 54, p. 445); and on 1st March, 1693, Richard Bell, portioner of Crurie, was infeft in an annual rent of £40 Scots furth of Coat on a heritable bond by John Scott of Renaldburn, dated 8th January, 1687 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 65, p. 230). On 28th June, 1695, Richard Bell in Crurie was infeft in an annual rent of £16 Scots furth of Dirrops under Bond by William Bell of Blackethouse and Jean Bell, his spouse; William Bell, younger of Scotsbrig, their son-in-law, being Cautioner (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 5, ii., p. 290). In 1700 Richard Bell, "some-time in Townhead of Carruthers, then in Crurie," was infeft in life-rent and Thomas, his second son, in fee in half of Minsca and Risphill, formerly possessed by the deceased John Bell of Crowdieknowe and then by the said Richard, on a Wadset by William, Earl of Annandale, with consent of John Bell, then in Crowdieknowe, and his Curator, Walter Bell in Torbeckhill, to the said Richard and Thomas Bell; George Bell, portioner of Minsca, being a witness to the Sasine (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 6, p. 218). The descendants of Richard Bell are dealt with under the head of Crurie.

6. Isobel Bell, sister of John of Crowdieknowe, married John Wilson in Greenhill, heritable proprietor and wadsetter of Bengall (Marriage Contract, 10th August, 1665) (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 6/78). (See Between-the-Waters Section.)

George Bell (called Crowdie or Crudie), who died in 1639, may have been a younger brother of Thomas of Crowdieknowe (1581-1646). In 1606 he was put to the horn for spuilying all the goods on the lands of Hairtree (*R.P.C.*, VII., 237). In his Testament, registered at Dumfries on 4th February, 1640, he is described as "George Bell, called Crowdie, in—, in the parochin of Midlebie." The Inventory was given up by Isobel Giffert, his relict, in name and behalf of William and Isobel, their lawful bairns, as only executors dative, Andrew Giffert in Tympen being Cautioner. His estate amounted to £104 13s 6d Scots, including 2 oxen, 2 kye, 2 stirks, a little mare, and 7 sheep, "the insight and plenishing of said defunts hous with the abulziaments of his bodie 10 merks."

JOHN BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE (1620-1686) was the eldest son of Thomas above. By Contract, dated 10th May, 1647, executed at the Castle of Hoddum, James, Earl of Annandale, as proprietor of the lands therein mentioned—William Bell of Carruthers acting as bailie—in consideration of 7000 merks advanced by John Bell of Crowdieknowe disposed to him under reversion the twenty shilling land of Carruthers, the twenty shilling land of Newton, the twenty shilling land of Crossbank, and the four merk land of the Park of Carruthers, "presently possessed by the said John Bell and his tenants," in the parish of Carruthers (*P.R.S.*, 23rd June, 1648, Vol. 5/227). This appears to be the beginning of the feudal title in the Bells.

He was infeft in half of Minsca on Disposition by James, Earl of Hartfell, in 1658 (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/82). On 21st June, 1658, James, Earl of Queensberry, wadset to him Kirtleheid or Hopeheid in Carruthers, of which a Discharge was registered on 3rd October, 1694. In 1662 he was exempted from the pardon granted by Charles II. for his connection with the Covenanting troubles till he paid a fine of £600 Scots (*Acts Parl.*, VII., p. 422). On 5th March, 1664, he was infeft in Minsca and Risphill (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 8, p. 120). He and Thomas, his eldest son, were infeft in life-rent and in fee in Carruthers, Crowdieknowe, etc., 6th January, 1670 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 24, p. 103). He was on the Roll of Heritors in 1684 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

He married Isobell Bell, who died on 8th January, 1703, aged 76 years (Tomb, Carruthers).

He died on 27th October, 1686, aged 66 years, his Testament being recorded on 15th April, 1687, by Walter, his son, his personal estate being £1480 Scots.

His children were :—

1. Thomas of Crowdieknowe, 1647-91 (below).

2. William of Crowdieknowe, 1649-98 (below).

3. Walter of Torbeckhill. He was executor dative of his father in 1687. On 22nd February, 1696, he was infeft in half of Torbeckhill on a Disposition by John Bell of Albie and Margaret Smith, his spouse (*P.R.S.*), and the other half about the same time was conveyed to him by Richard, their son. On 15th September, 1699, Richard Bell, brother of John of Albie, was infeft in an annual rent out of Dockenflat by Walter Bell, designed as "in Torbeckhill, portioner of Dockenflat" (*P.R.S.*, VI., 135); and George Bell, younger of Blackethouse, was infeft in another annual rent granted by Walter Bell, "portioner of Dockenflat," on 15th May, 1700 (*P.R.S.*, VI., 198). In the same year he was infeft in an annual rent out of Dunabie on a Bond by William Bell, elder of Scotsbrig, and William, his eldest son (*P.R.S.*, VI., 202), and had Sasine in the lands of Floatsine on a Disposition by William Bell of Blackethouse (*P.R.S.*, VI., 212). He died in May, 1709, according to the service of his nephew as his heir in Torbeckhill and 2600 merks over Dunnabie and Greengatehouse (2nd January, 1720). His Testament was recorded on 16th February, 1720, his executor being his nephew, John Bell of Crowdieknowe. Among his legatees were his sister Janet, "spouse to William Bell of Scotsbrig," and his nieces, Isobel Bell, spouse to Mr James Currie, minister of Hoddum, and Sibella and Agnes, daughters of his brother William.

4. John, born 1654, who died on 11th February, 1685, aged 31 years, predeceasing his father. His tombstone bears the initials J.B. on a shield with 3 bells, 1 and 2.

5. Robert, born 1657, who died on 30th January, 1688, aged 31 years (Tomb, Carruthers, bearing a shield with 3 bells and the initials R.B.).

6. Janet, spouse to William Bell, eldest son of George of Godsbrig (Marriage Contract, 14th February, 1660; *P.R.S.*, 2nd June, 1677, II., 198).

7. Jean.

THOMAS BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE (1647-1691).—He was the eldest son of John of Crowdieknowe. In 1669 John Bell

of Albie assigned to him, then "in Townhead of Carruthers," a Wadset by James, Earl of Annandale, dated 19th January, 1663, over half of Minsca (*G.R.S.*, 24-111). He died on 6th May, 1691, aged 44 years (Tomb, Carruthers). His Testament was recorded on 18th February, 1692, given up by William Bell of Crowdieknowe and Walter, Janet, and Jean Bell, his brethren and sisters german.

He married Margaret Johnston, daughter of Andrew Johnston of Turnmuir and Lockerbie (Marriage Contract, 5th June, 1679); John of Crowdieknowe being a Consenter. The tocher was 4000 merks Scots, which was still due to him at the time of his death (Testament, and Mackenzie's *Acts and Decrees*, 31st December, 1692). His wife's Testament was recorded by him on 25th March, 1690. Having died without issue, he was succeeded by—

WILLIAM BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE (1649-1698), his brother. He was infeft in Betwixt-the-Waters, Steilston, and Hotts, and Agnes Bell, daughter of George Bell of Godsbrig, his spouse, in one-third thereof, 23rd March, 1677, on a Disposition by his father and elder brother following on their Marriage Contract of 8th December, 1676 (*P.R.S.*, II., 181). On 10th November, 1691, he served heir to Thomas, his brother, in Carruthers, including Park, Crowdieknowe, Croftlands, Craiglands, Linbridge, Tanna, Middingtowntknowes, and Hotcroft, Craigs, Betwixt-the-Waters, Bagthrope, Britleys, Patrickholm, and Chaple, and was infeft on 7th March, 1692 (Thomson's *Retours*, Dumfries, 331; and *G.R.S.*, 63-343). He died on 11th September, 1698, aged 49 years (Tomb, Carruthers). Agnes Bell, his relict, renounced to her son John her rights in Crowdieknowe on 17th July, 1705 (*P.R.S.*, VII., 97); and she also renounced her rights under a Bond by George Bell, portioner of Minsca, 8th July, 1710 (*P.R.S.*, VII., 492). She had a security for 700 merks granted by George Bell, her father, over half of Minsca, to which her daughters served as heirs portioners. She died on 25th July, 1734, aged 82 years (Tomb, Carruthers), and her Testament was recorded on 11th June, 1735, given up by Sibella, her daughter.

The children of William Bell were :—

1. John of Crowdieknowe (below).
2. Jean, the eldest daughter, married (1) John Scott, eldest son of Robert Scott of Gillesbie (Marriage Contract,

1st January, 1691). Her husband bound himself to infeft her in an annual rent of 400 merks, the tocher being 3500 merks. Witnesses—William Bell of Scotsbrig, Richard Bell of Blackesk, and John Bell, son to Richard Bell of Crurie. Janet Scott, the only daughter of the marriage, married in 1714 Thomas Fordyce, writer, Edinburgh. Jean, the widow, married (2) John Bell of Crurie. She served heir portioner to her mother (14th November, 1734) and in the Minsca Bond (24th July, 1735).

3. Sibella Bell, spouse to Adam Carlyle of Bridekirk, who was her mother's sole executrix, and who served to her mother as above (5th February, 1736), survived her husband (Testament, 8th May, 1766), her executor being her daughter, Sibella Carlyle, and John Reid in Cleuchfoots (then in Scotsdyke), her husband. Another daughter must have married George Douglas in Hitchell, as his children—William, James, and Helen Douglas—who got legacies under her Will, are described as her grandchildren.

4. Agnes Bell, spouse to Robert Rutherford in Crossbankhead, whose children were William, John, Sibella, Agnes, and another. She served heir as above (5th February, 1736).

5. Isobel Bell, spouse to James Currie (grandfather of the biographer of Robert Burns), parson, Hoddum, who served heir as above (14th November, 1734). Their daughter Helen married Thomas Bell in West Side of Black Esk (see Crurie) (Testament of Walter Bell, 16th February, 1720; their mother's Testament; Dec. of Division of Middlebie Commony, 11th January, 1774; Register of Adjudications, 20th April, 1730).

JOHN BELL, LAST OF CROWDIEKNOWE, on 27th October, 1698, served heir in general and also heir male and of line to William Bell of Crowdieknowe, his father (*Retours*: General 8776, and Dumfries 352).

He resigned *ad remanentiam* Kirtlehead (or Hopehead) to the Duke of Queensberry (Sasine, 3rd October, 1694; *G.R.S.*, p. 324). On 2nd June, 1699, he was infeft in half of Minsca and Risphill (*G.R.S.*). On 26th September, 1701, the Duke renounced his claim in his favour to the lands of Tana and Ruckley, part of Crowdieknowe, in the Barony of Carruthers (*P.R.S.*). On 3rd August, 1703, he was infeft in Nether Albie and Waterbeckfoot, with Albie in warrandice, for an annual rent of £20 Scots on a Disposition by John Bell

of Albie and Margaret Smith, his spouse, dated 23rd January, 1673 (*P.R.S.*). On 15th July, 1709, William Douglas of Dornock was infeft in an annual rent out of Carruthers, *alias* Crowdieknowe (*G.R.S.*, 96, 303).

In 1702-4 he was a Commissioner of Supply for the county (Acts Parl., XI., 22, 143). On 7th June, 1710, he was infeft in half of Dockenflat on Disposition by Walter Bell, proprietor of that half (*P.R.S.*). On 18th July, 1710, he had Sasine on a Bond for 700 merks over Minsca granted by George Bell, which he renounced on 8th September, 1713 (*P.R.S.*). On 27th January, 1714, he granted a Discharge to Walter Bell of Dockenflat (Deeds, Dumfries). On 8th January, 1719, he was infeft in the 2 merk lands of Scotsbrig (*G.R.S.*, 113-320). He was executor of Walter Bell, his uncle, in 1720.

He died on 7th July, 1727, aged 46 years (Tomb, Carruthers). His Testament was recorded on 27th November, 1727, his widow being his executor dative, and was followed by various eiks down to 1753.

His sisters—Jean, Sibella, Isobell, and Agnes—were his heirs portioners of line; Walter Bell in Hiddleston, Northumberland, being his nearest lawful heir male. He served heir to his uncle *cum beneficio inventarii* (8th August, 1728).

He married Ann Crichton, "the Lady Crowdieknowe," daughter of William Crichton of Crawfordtown. On 16th January, 1711, she was infeft in an annuity of 2000 merks out of the £14 land of Carruthers (*G.R.S.*, 99-238). She died in February, 1748, and her Testament was recorded on 17th May following; her Executor being William Hay, son to James Hay, physician in Dumfries, her nephew and next-of-kin.

John Bell encumbered his properties with a view to acquiring the estates of his father-in-law, William Crichton of Crawfordton, who died insolvent in 1702, his rent roll being £1314. In consequence, John Bell left his affairs in great disorder; John Bell of Crurie being his Trustee (Signet Library *Session Papers*, 62-41).

From the Inventory of the plenishing of his house made with reference to his Testament, one extract may serve as a record of fallen greatness, or may cast light on the domestic economy of that period: "Furniture in the room on the north-east end of the dining room a bed with hangings cords mattbed cloth fetherbed bolster and pillows, the fraim of the



bed being raked the hangings motheat the fether bed darned and orways mended all much worn worth £1 11s."

From a heritable bond granted by him in 1725, a few years before his death, it appears that he then possessed:—All and hail the lands and barony of Carruthers, being a £14 land, comprehending the lands of Crowdieknowe, Carruthers, Tanna, Easter and Wester Linbridgeford, the lands of Outer and Inner Craigs, the lands of Chapple, the lands of Bagthropple, the lands of Newtown and Crossbankhead, the lands of Betwixt-the-Waters, the lands of Nether Albie and Waterbeckfoot, the lands of Torbeckhill, and the equal half of the lands of Dockenflat (*P.R.S.*, 9th June, 1725; and *Sheriff Court Books*, Dumfries, 29th April, 1758).

John Graham about 1750 bought the properties from the creditors of John Bell, the last of "the Crowdieknowe Bells." He or his successors sold or feued portions of the property, viz.:—The half of Dockenflat to Andrew Currie, son of James Currie, minister of Hoddum, and Isobel Bell, daughter of William of Crowdieknowe; Dunnabie to John Bell of Scotsbrig; Carruthers to William Bell; Waterbeck, in Penner-saughs Parish, to John Carruthers; half of Torbeckhill, then possessed by Benjamin Bell, to John Bell of Minsca, and the other half to John Johnstone, portioner of Castlehill, and the Rev. John Johnstone, his son, which half was acquired from the latter's representatives in 1785; Between-the-Waters to Richard Bell of Greenhill; Hotts to William Bell, son of John Bell of Cushethill; and Nether Albie to John Bell in Potstown, who was succeeded by Francis Bell. The Superiorities of these lands and the remaining farms of Crowdieknowe and West and East Linbridgeford about 1790 came into the possession of the Johnstones of Westerhall.

The Testament of George Bell in Crowdieknowe, probably the brother of John, who died in October, 1727, was given up by Sibbie Bell, spouse of Robert Carlyle in Sandbed, executrix *qua* next of kin (30th August, 1732). He held a bill by the deceased John Bell.

**MINSKA and TORBECKHILL, and CARRUTHERS (Carruthers Parish), and WHITCASTLES and WHITEKNOWE (Corrie Parish).**

The owners of these lands are so intermingled that it has been deemed best to treat of them under one heading. Minsca

and Torbeckhill are of peculiar interest as being the only lands in the present Middlebie Parish till recent times held by owners of the name of Bell.

Minsca appears to have been held in the earlier days of its written history in two halves under Wadsets by the Earls of Annandale, and the original possessors cannot be determined without access to the titles. The Minsca and Torbeckhill families descend from the Bells of Crowdieknowe.

In March, 1654, John Bell of Albie and John Bell of Crowdieknowe were each infeft in half of Minsca (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 8, 104 and 120), and again in 1658 under Dispositions under reversion by James, Earl of Hartfell (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 7/82).

THOMAS BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE (1581-1646), son of John of Crowdieknowe, had five sons:—

1. John of Crowdieknowe, who died in 1636, was infeft in Minsca and Risphill on 5th March, 1664 (*G.R.S.*, 8-120); and shortly afterwards granted various obligations in which he was described as "in Minsca" (*Register of Deeds*, Dalrymple, 15-702; Durie, 17-489, Do., 19-54).

2. Walter Bell, who died on 12th March, 1694, aged 68 years (Tomb, Carruthers).

3. Thomas Bell of Minsea (1642-93), of whom more below. In January, 1669, John Bell of Albie assigned to Thomas Bell in Townhead of Carruthers, and then in Minsca, a Wadset granted to him by James, Earl of Annandale, the heritable proprietor, of half of Minsca and Risphill for 1600 merks, dated 19th January, 1663. The Witnesses to the Sasine were William Bell of Albie, William Bell (son to John Bell of Crowdieknowe), and Richard (brother german to John of Crowdieknowe); Mr Robert Bell, Notary Public Clerk of Glasgow Diocese, being the Notary (*G.R.S.*, 10th January, 1670, Vol. 24-111).

4. George Bell in Dockenflat, "portioner of Minsca," who was a Witness to the Sasine to his brother Richard (below). He granted a Bond for 700 merks to John Bell, last of Crowdieknowe (*P.R.S.*, 18th July, 1710), in connection with which the latter granted a renunciation (*P.R.S.*, 8th September, 1713).

5. Richard Bell (1645-1714), sometime in Townhead of Carruthers, afterwards of Crurie (see Crowdieknowe and Crurie sections).

On 28th May, 1700, Sasine was given to him in life-rent



and Thomas, his second son, in fee, in half of Minsca and Risp-hill, formerly possessed by the deceased John Bell of Crowdieknowe and then by the said Richard, on a Wadset between William, Earl of Annandale, with consent of John Bell, then in Crowdieknowe, and his Curator, Walter Bell in Torbeckhill, to the said Richard and Thomas Bell; George Bell, portioner of Minsca, being a Witness to the Sasine (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 6, p. 218).

On 8th July, 1710, Agnes, wife of William Bell of Crowdieknowe, renounced her right to these lands.

THOMAS BELL OF MINSKA, the third son of the above Thomas and Bessie Bell, died on 8th January, 1693, aged 51 years.

He was twice married—first to Jean Bell, daughter of — Bell of Nook, who was known as “Bonie Jeanie Bell,” and who died on 12th April, 1675, aged 25 years (Tomb, Carruthers), leaving a son, George of Minsca (below); and secondly to Sibella Johnstone, daughter of — Johnstone of Lairdholm, by whom he had a son, John of Whitstonehill.

GEORGE BELL OF MINSKA, son of Thomas and Jean Bell, was born about 1675.

He married, in 1705, Mary Johnstone, daughter of John Johnstone of Pearsbyhall, by whom he had a son, John (below).

George Bell was a Jacobite. In Peter Rae's *History of the Rebellion* (2nd Edition, p. 184) it is narrated that “George Bell of Minsca, a Jacobite Gentleman, having insulted the Guards at Penpont and refused to stand when the Centries required him, was shot by one of 'em through the leg, which I rather take notice of because it was the first blood that was drawn against the Pretender.” This was about the end of July, 1715. Mr George Bell, last of Minsca, states that his Jacobite ancestor did not return to Minsca after the rebellion, and his wife and young son were harassed by the Earl of Annandale until the latter died. Minsca was practically forfeited. Wife and child were wadsetters for a while. During the Earl's time they were not evicted, but had to pay a rent. Through a friend, William Stewart, Gillenbie, who was factor on the Annandale Estates, Minsca was restored to the family.

JOHN BELL OF MINSKA AND TORBECKHILL, the son of George, was born on 19th May, 1712, and died on 8th August, 1778 (Tomb, Carruthers).

He served heir to George, “portioner of Minsca,” his

father, 9th May, 1723. He became proprietor of Torbeckhill, the earlier history of which property, so far as traced, was as follows :—

John Bell of Albie was infeft in half of Torbeckhill in 1659, and Richard Bell, his brother, registered a Sasine in Torbeckhill, dated 18th February, 1687, and another in the equal half of these lands, 9th November, 1694, on a Disposition by his father, John.

John and Richard in 1694 each disposed half to Walter Bell, brother of William of Crowdieknowe, who died in May, 1709.

John Bell of Crowdieknowe served heir to his uncle, Walter of Torbeckhill, 4th June, 1719.

Torbeckhill was acquired from the Creditors of John Bell by John Graham, who about 1750 sold half of Torbeckhill to John Bell of Minsca, of whom we are treating, and the other half to John Johnstone, portioner of Castlehill.

John Bell married on 2nd June, 1741, Jean Smith, daughter of Patrick Smith, writer, Craigshaws, by whom he had three sons :—

1. George of Minsca and Torbeckhill, born 12th March, 1742 (of whom below).

2. Patrick (or Peter) Bell of Whiteknowe (or Whiteholm), born 22nd May, 1745, who farmed Carterton. By Disposition dated 18th July, 1787, George Johnstone of Whiteknowe and Whiteholm, in Hutton and Corrie Parish, disposed these lands to Peter Bell in Carterton. He died at Carterton on 24th August, 1799, aged 54 years. He married in June, 1782, Mary Bell, daughter of William Bell of Hots. She died on 23rd September, 1817, aged 66 years (Tomb, Carruthers).

They had one son :—

John Bell of Whiteknowe, born 1790 ; died 22nd September, 1874, aged 84 years (Tomb, Carruthers). He got a Charter from the Annandale Trustees on 11th March, 1823.

Peter Bell had also six daughters. The youngest, Sarah Bell, married on 28th December, 1827, Robert Carruthers, eldest son of John Carruthers in Haregills, and had four sons—John, Peter, James, and Robert Carruthers.

3. Thomas Bell, born 26th June, 1747. He had a son, John, a soldier, who was at Waterloo, and was the father of Rev. Thomas Bell, D.D., Keig, Aberdeenshire.

GEORGE BELL OF MINSKA AND TORBECKHILL, born 12th March, 1742 ; died 31st January, 1820. In addition to the half of Torbeckhill, which belonged to his father, he bought the other half, which John Johnstone had acquired from John Graham. On 4th March, 1785, he served heir to John, his father, in Lairdholm and Linhall, Ravenshill, etc., in Tundergarth Parish. On 18th September, 1798, the Earl of Hope-toun's Trustees, the successors of the Earl of Hartfell, granted to him a Feu Disposition of Minsca, otherwise the five merk land of Muckshaw and Risphill. He and his wife left this property to Thomas and George, their sons, equally, and their names appear in the Valuation Roll of 1825 as proprietors of Minsca and Risphill.

He married Elizabeth Moffat (born 1760 ; died December, 1839), daughter of Thomas Moffat, Winterhopehead. They had three sons and a daughter :—

1. John Bell, baptised 25th May, 1784, who succeeded to Torbeckhill, and who died on 25th December, 1849. He bought Carruthers in 1840.

Carruthers was part of the estate acquired from John Bell of Crowdieknowe by John Graham, which he feued to William Bell of Carruthers (1726-1791), who married Helen Rae, and had four children :—

(1) John Bell of Carruthers, writer in Lockerbie, who married Mary Beattie of Watcarrick, and whose eldest son was Francis Bell of Falmouth, Jamaica.

(2) Francis Bell of Carruthers, writer in Ecclefechan, who had two sons, Francis and Thomas.

(3) William Bell of Falmouth, born 1791.

(4) Jean Bell, born 1786, who married John Pattie, Dumfries.

The said John Bell of Torbeckhill and Carruthers married on 8th January, 1811, Anne Johnstone (1786-1878), daughter of Thomas Johnstone of Grange (*Tundergarth Register*). They had five sons and three daughters :—

(1) George Bell (1811-1819), who predeceased his father.

(2) Jemima Bell (1813-1896), married Dr Wilson, Waterbeck, and died s.p.

(3) Elizabeth Bell (1815-1873), married Rev. A. Cross, and had three sons and a daughter :

## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

(a) Alexander Cross, the eldest son.  
 (b) John Cross, married Miss Graham, Dunnabie, and had descendants.

(c) Matthew Munro Cross.

(d) Anne Cross.

(4) Jean Bell (1817-18).

(5) Thomas Bell of Torbeckhill (born 1818; died 4th August, 1895), married Jane Carruthers (1830-1919), daughter of John Carruthers of Shaw, Tundergarth, to whom she served heir, 23rd October, 1860, and had the following children:—

(a) John Bell of Torbeckhill (born 1859; died 25th December, 1919), married Katherine S. M'Laurin, and died s.p.

(b) Rachel Bell, now living at Torbeckhill.

(c) George Bell (1863-65).

(d) Thomas Bell (1865-1880).

(e) Annie Bell (born 1868), married Dr George Johnstone, Manchester, and has a daughter, Jean (born 1904).

(f) Robert Bell (1871-1890).

(6) George Bell of Carruthers (born 1820; died 11th August, 1891), to whom his father left half that property. He served heir to John, his brother, in the other half, and was infeft therein on 18th May, 1881. Carruthers was sold by his Trustees in 1910.

He married in 1857 Isabella Napier Newbigging, daughter of Archibald Newbigging, merchant, Glasgow. She died in 1913, and had issue:—

(a) Jane Napier Bell, married William Hamilton on 30th October, 1890, and went to Melbourne.

(b) John Bell. Went to Australia. Married, but no family.

(c) Annie Johnston Bell; died on 7th May, 1924.

(d) Mary Margaret Bell, married James Fleming, Greenock, in 1886.

(e) Isabella Newbigging Bell; died 29th May, 1922.

(f) William Archibald Bell. Went to Australia. Married, and has a family of sons and daughters. His line accordingly represents the families of Minsca and Torbeckhill.

(g) Georgina Jemima Elizabeth Tomasina.

(7) John Bell (born 1822; died 19th August, 1880), Between-the-Waters and Carruthers. Under his father's Will he took half of Carruthers, and left his share to George, his brother (above).

(8) William Bell (1825-1853).

2. Thomas Bell, tenant of Whitcastles. Baptised 4th June, 1786; died 5th March, 1837, aged 52 years. He was the second son of George Bell of Torbeckhill and Minsca and Elizabeth Moffat. He and George, his brother, were infeft on their parents' Settlement, 5th August, 1836, Thomas being then described as "in Whitcastles."

He married Jane Murray, who died on 17th October, 1845, aged 54 years. Children:—

(1) George Bell, Whitcastles (unmarried).

(2) John Bell, the second son, who was born in 1822 and died on 17th July, 1841, aged 19 years.

(3) Thomas Bell, Whitcastles (born 14th April, 1826; died 23rd September, 1854); (Tomb, Carruthers, which bears the names of Thomas and John Bell of Minsca, who died in 1693 and 1778). He married Elizabeth Bell, his cousin, and had one son, Thomas, who had two sons and two daughters, all of whom went to Canada.

3. George Bell of Minsca, the third son (baptised 14th April, 1791; died 6th November, 1877), was infeft as above, 5th August, 1836, being described as "in Minsca."

He married Sarah Murray, daughter of Matthew Murray, Barcleeshead. She died on 25th February, 1876. Their children were:—

(1) George Bell (born 1822; died 27th October, 1850, in his father's lifetime).

(2) Matthew Bell (died 2nd June, 1846).

(3) Elizabeth (Betty) Bell.

(4) John Bell of Minsca (1829-1903), of whom below.

(5) Jean Bell.

(6) Thomas Bell, who died when about 14 years of age.

4. Jean Bell (baptised 9th April, 1794; *Middlebie Register*).

JOHN BELL OF MINSKA, third son of George Bell and Sarah Murray (born 28th March, 1829), married Isabella Margaret Stothart (born 14th September, 1827; died 11th October, 1913), daughter of John Stothart, Crossbankhead, by whom he had:—

1. George Bell of Minsca (born 4th February, 1857). He sold the property in 1931.

2. John Stothart (born 5th October, 1858), who married Janet, daughter of John P. Douglas, Old Manse, Lockerbie.

3. Elizabeth Jane (born 24th July, 1860).

4. Thomas (born 30th July, 1862), who married on 30th November, 1893, Isabell E. Cumming, daughter of William Cumming, Ebor Mount, Huddersfield.

5. Mary Farries (born 22nd July, 1864).

6. Sara Murray (born 9th November, 1866).

7. Janet Agnes Stothart (born 4th November, 1869), who married Rev. Thomas Primrose Rankine on 24th March, 1898.

## CRURIE.

## Eskdalemuir Parish.

At what date the Bells spread into Eskdale it is impossible to say, but in 1606 Andrew Bell in Crurie, then belonging to William Batie of Crourie, was with others charged to enter before the Council for the pursuit of His Majesty's Guard (*R.P.C.*, VII., 618).

RICHARD BELL OF CRURIE (1645-1714), described in his earlier life as in Townhead of Carruthers and as in Woolcoats, was the fourth son of Thomas Bell of Crowdieknowe, who died in 1646 (see that Branch). By Disposition, dated 13th April, 1683, and registered in the *Books of Council and Session*, 21st November, 1694, Francis Scott of Grassyards conveyed Crurie (held of the Duke of Buccleuch as Superior) to John Murray, eldest son of John Murray in Irvine and Richard Bell in Voulcoats equally (*G.R.S.*, 28th March, 1687, Vol. 54/445). John Murray or his son John were tenants of Buccleuch in Irvine and Coldton farms, in Wauchope Parish, between 1679 and 1732.

Richard Bell died on 11th February, 1714, aged 72 years (Tombstone at Carruthers, where the Crurie family are buried).

He, described as "brother german to John Bell of Crowdieknowe," married Sibella Bell, daughter of George Bell of Godsbrig. Under the Marriage Contract, dated 9th April, 1675, her father was to pay £1000 as tocher, and Richard was to infett her in an annual rent of £110 for life (*Dumfries Commissary Court Books*, 20th January, 1718).

He had three sons :—

1. John of Crurie (below).

2. Richard, who died on 25th January, 1730, aged 34 years, predeceasing John. He married Sibella Bell, who died on 13th April, 1753, aged 57 years (Tomb).

3. Thomas of Crurie (below).

JOHN BELL OF CRURIE.—Francis, Earl of Dalkeith, on 3rd March, 1720, granted a Precept to John Murray of Pott-

holm and John Bell as heirs of their respective fathers in the lands of Crurie, and in the same year John Murray conveyed his half to John Bell, who in 1743 conveyed to Thomas, his brother (*Dumfries Sheriff Court Books*, 25th October, 1758). He and his wife in 1732 assigned all their interest to Thomas. From the evidence in the Decree of Division of Middlebie Commonty, 11th January, 1774, it appears that John Bell, then aged 68 years of age, stated that he came to live with his father at Scotsbrig when about 8 years of age, and lived there the five following years.

He married Jean Bell, daughter of William and sister of John, both of Crowdieknowe, and widow of John Scott, eldest son of Robert Scott of Gillesbie (Marriage Contract, 1st January, 1691), her dowry being 400 merks. They had a daughter, Janet Scott, born 1698, and her father died the same year. The widow married John Bell, and the daughter succeeded to Gillesbie. She died in 1716, and left her husband, Thomas Fordyce, writer in Edinburgh, a life-interest, with remainder to her brother Thomas.

THOMAS BELL OF CRURIE (1686-1754) was the brother of John, and is designed as in West Side of Black Esk. In 1732 he bought the life-interest of Fordyce in Gillesbie and all John and Jean Bell's claims. After a long litigation in 1758 a settlement all round was effected, and Porteous of Carmacoup became proprietor of Gillesbie (*Hutton Under the Muir*, by Col. Wm. Rogerson, p. 33).

The old house of Crurie bears the initials T.B., M.S., 1750, but Thomas is said to have married Helen Currie, daughter of James Currie, M.A., minister of Hoddum (the father of James Currie, minister of Middlebie, and grandfather of the biographer of Robert Burns), and Isobel Bell, sister of John Bell, last of Crowdieknowe (*Fasti Eccles. Scot.*, II., 249).

The tale of "Gilpin Horner," the mysterious elf which appeared at Todshaw Hill and Westside, in Eskdalemuir, in the latter part of the seventeenth century, suggested to Sir Walter Scott the composition of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel," written at the request of the Countess of Dalkeith. The appearance of "the Bogle" created great excitement, and Thomas Bell was one of the witnesses cited who said that it "had flesh and blood like other folks." The creature figures in the poem as Lord Cranstoun's goblin page (MSS. of Rev. Wm. Brown, minister of Eskdalemuir, quoted in a paper



of the Hawick Archæological Society, May, 1873; Author's Notes to the *Lay*; Canto II., xxxi.).

Thomas Bell did not complete a title under the Disposition of 1743, and died on 4th March, 1754, aged 68 years (Tomb, Carruthers), leaving a son, Richard, who was appointed his executor dative (Testament, 22nd May, 1755). He had another son, John, tenant of Raeburnhead.

RICHARD BELL OF CRURIE (1729-1794) served heir in general to Thomas, his father, before the Baillies of Selkirk, 7th February, 1755, and was infeft 3rd July, 1759 (*P.R.S.*). He granted a Disposition to Thomas Bell, his only son, dated 15th February, 1764, who was infeft on 1st December, 1801 (*P.R.S.*).

He died on 1st November, 1794, aged 65 years (Tomb). He married Christian Graham, daughter of William Graham of Shaw and his wife, who was a daughter of Michael Anderson of Tushielaw. The Graham family had held lands in Hutton Parish for seven centuries, Sir Henry Graham, it is said, having acquired them by his marriage with Mary ("the White Lady of Avenel"), daughter of Roger Avenel (*Hutton Under the Muir*, by Col. Wm. Rogerson, 1908).

Mrs Bell died on 3rd September, 1763, aged 34 years. The tombstone at Carruthers records her virtues thus:—

"O, could distinguished goodness claim  
Through ages to transmit a name,  
The memory of her true desert  
Should live within each worthy heart,  
When long revolving years are past,  
Nor need a stone to mark her dust."

The verses are doubtless from the pen of her eldest sister, Jenny Graham, whose poems were admired by Burns (*Hutton*, p. 38; Irving's *Book of Scotsmen*, p. 179; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*).

The stone also bears an escutcheon thus recorded by Mr J. Bell Irving (*Dumfries Antiquarian Society*, 1912-13, p. 108):—

"Thomas Bell of Crurie, 1754: 3 bells, 1 and 2, impaling his son's wife's, Christian Graham of Shaw, 3 escallops in chief and in base a dagger erect, between them a saltire in an oblong touching the dexter side; the whole is narrow and is impaled(?) between on the dexter Bell of Crurie, and on the sinister on a fesse 3 escallops and in chief 6 roundles 3, 2, and one."

The Arms of Bell of Kirkconnel were azure 3 bells or



(Nisbet's *Heraldry*, I., 437). The seal of John Graham of Masskesswra, in Hutton Parish, shows a saltire and 3 escallop shells and the Arms of Graham, Viscount Preston, included 1st or a chief sable charged with 3 escallops of the first, and 3rd azure 5 annulets 2, 2, and 1 (Do., I., 80); and the saltire common in Annandale arms was borne as a token "of gratitude on acknowledgment of benefits."

Richard Bell and his wife had issue:—

1. Thomas (mentioned above).

2. Margaret, referred to in her father's Will, and who married Josias Walker, Professor of Humanity, Glasgow University. She was born in 1759, and died at Hillside on 24th June, 1831 (Tomb, Hutton).

3. Helen, who died on 29th January, 1806, aged 44 years (Tomb, Carruthers).

THOMAS BELL OF CRURIE (1763-1833), who died on 29th April, 1833, aged 70 years (Tomb). He married Isobel Pott (Marriage Contract, 9th November, 1787; Abstract, *Register of Sasines*, No. 567). She died on 7th September, 1797, aged 32 years (Tomb.) She may have been a daughter or some connection of John Pott of Nether Fenton, who was a heritor in Hutton and Corrie Parish in 1744. They had issue:—

1. Richard Bell, the eldest son, who died on 16th February, 1835, aged 47 years. He married Jean Henderson, who died on 29th July, 1894. They had three children:—

(1) Isabell, who married J. J. M. Borthwick on 17th January, 1859, and died on 8th April, 1914.

(2) Thomas in Tanlawhill, who died on 7th April, 1855.

(3) Richard, who died at New York in 1857.

2. George Graham Bell of Crurie (below).

3. Thomas Bell in Middlegill, who died in January, 1840.

4. Christian, who died in infancy (Tomb).

5. Isabella, who died on 13th April, 1807, aged 16 (Tomb).

6. Christina, alive in 1829, mentioned in her father's Will.

By Disposition dated 31st July, 1829 (*Books of C. and S.*, 11th May, 1833), Thomas Bell disposed Crurie to George Graham Bell, his second son.

GEORGE GRAHAM BELL OF CRURIE.—Born 2nd September, 1796; died 18th June, 1875.

He was a well-known Advocate at the Scottish Bar and had a very extensive practice, especially connected with Dumfriesshire, in which county he was familiarly known as

"The Advocate." All the time he could spare from Edinburgh he spent on his estate. In 1832 he purchased Yetbyre and Yairds, which lands adjoining Crurie came to be known as Castle O'er, and where he built Castle O'er House. He also acquired a stretch of country at the head of the Tweed, including Hawkshaw, Badlieu, etc.

He married on 7th October, 1822, Janet Martin, daughter of John Martin, Chancery Office, Edinburgh (born 3rd April, 1795; died 30th January, 1869). They had eight children and about forty grandchildren:—

1. Thomas Bell, C.E., Lieut.-Colonel, Edinburgh City Volunteers (born 11th August, 1823; died 3rd December, 1865). He married (1847) Rose Hedger, daughter of Francis Hedger, Bath. Children:—

(1) George Graham Bell (1848-1876), unmarried.

(2) Annie Sarah Graham Bell (born 1849), married William Albin Vernon Garratt, and died s.p.

(3) Francis Graham Bell (1851-1881), unmarried.

(4) Mary Graham Bell (born 1852), married (1886) Frederick Montague de la Fosse, son of Captain Charles E. de la Fosse, R.A., and left two daughters.

(5) Rose Graham Bell (1854-1867).

(6) Thomas Graham Bell (1856-1885), married Rose Charlotte Lyall, and left one daughter.

(7) Katherine Graham Bell, married Alban Mangin without issue.

(8) Richard Graham Bell (1860-61).

(9) Philip Frushard Graham Bell (1861-1927), married (1884) Mary Hodge Mackenzie, and left a son, George Graham Bell (born 1885).

2. Elizabeth (Eliza) Bell (born 8th August, 1825; died 7th February, 1912), married John Wilson, son of Professor John Wilson ("Christopher North.")

3. Isabella Pott Bell (born 23rd July, 1827; died in infancy).

4. Janet Bell (born 14th May, 1829; died 15th October, 1901), married The Right Hon. George Young, Senator of the College of Justice.

5. Christian Bell (born 8th July, 1831; died 8th May, 1871), married Archibald Steuart, W.S., the father and mother of the compiler of these notes.

6. Richard Bell of Crurie (below).

7. Stephana Martin Bell (born 25th April, 1836).

8. Georgina Graham Bell (born 13th December, 1840 ; died 10th June, 1914), married Thomas Elis Steuart, Secretary, British Linen Bank.

RICHARD BELL OF CRURIE, W.S., above (born 12th September, 1833 ; died 25th May, 1909), married :—

(1) Jane Aitchison (died 6th June, 1876).

(2) Margaret Marshall (died 7th March, 1879).

(3) Henrietta May Somerville (died 7th July, 1924).

Children of the first marriage :—

1. Jane Bell (born 1865 ; died 1925).

2. George Graham Bell (born 1866 ; died 1867).

3. Janet Bell.

4. William Aitchison Bell, now of Crurie and Castle O'er (born 22nd March, 1870).

5. Richard Bell (born 1873).

6. Eliza Mary Bell.

Children of the third marriage :—

7. Lillias May Bell.

8. Thomas Bell (born 1884 ; died at Assam, 1921).

9. John Graham Bell (born 1886).

## STOCKBRIGGS.

## Middlebie Parish.

These lands, extending to about 260 acres, lay along the east boundary of the old parish of Middlebie.

For many years the property was held in two equal shares *pro indiviso* until in 1788 (under the Submission referred to below) it was divided into two shares—the North (now Stockbridgehill) and the South (Nether Stockbridge). The Submission bore that the lands “belonging equally to the parties do partly lye in runrig or intermixed or partly in means [*i.e.*, in common] possessed *pro indiviso*.”

*North Half (Stockbridgehill).*

In treating of this share, which eventually became the North half, it is interesting to note that it was held for 150 years by six proprietors all of whom had the name of John Bell, except in the case of an Elizabeth Bell who also married a John Bell.

1. JOHN BELL (died c. 1671).—On 22nd January, 1649, Mr William Murray of Murraythwaite, as “laird Superior,” granted to “ane discreet man and weil belovit John Bell,

younger in Stockbriggs, the ward and non-entry duties of the equal half of a forty shilling land of old extent callit the Stockbriggs by reason of the ward or non-entries through the decease of Andro Bell, guidshire [grandfather] to the said John, or any others his predecessors last lawful possessors of the said lands and immediate heritable tenants to him or his predecessors." Andrew Bell appears to have possessed the whole of Stockbriggs. He had two sons, Walter and another unnamed (possibly John), to whose sons, both called John, Feu Charters, each of a *pro indiviso* half, were granted in 1649. On 22nd January, 1649, William Murray, with consent of James, Marquis of Annandale, his over Superior, granted a Charter to the said John Bell, younger of Stockbriggs, of the 20s land, part of the 40s land. The Sasine thereon was dated 31st July, 1649; the Procurator being Walter Bell, son to Mr Thomas Bell, minister at Middlebie. In 1664 there was a Bond of Caution not to molest, among other Bells, John and Richard in Stockbrigs (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, I., 701).

2. JOHN BELL (died c. 1726).—As son and heir of the said John, younger of Stockbrigs, he was infett on 24th November, 1671 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 28-270); John Bell, brother-in-law of John, younger, being a Witness to the Precept, and Richard and John Bell in Graynhall and Andrew and George Bell in Stockbrigs being Witnesses to the Sasine.

In 1684 John of Stockbrigs and Andrew, portioner there, were mentioned in the List of Heritors (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

3. JOHN BELL (1676-1731).—On 27th August, 1726, he got a Precept from Murraythwaite as heir of John, his father (*P.R.S.*, 1st March, 1727, Vol. 10-267); Walter Bell called of Stockbrigs being a Witness. John died on 19th September, 1731, aged 55 years, being survived by Janet Currie, his spouse, who died in April, 1751, aged 78 years (Tomb, Ecclefechan).

4. ELIZABETH BELL (1698-1781) succeeded, and on 13th February, 1758, got a Precept as sister and heir of John (Sasine, *P.R.S.*, 20th December, 1758, Vol. 17-422). She died on 15th May, 1781, aged 83 years, predeceased by her husband, John Bell, who died on 21st February, 1772, aged 71 years (Tomb, Ecclefechan).

5. JOHN BELL (1737-1788).—As eldest son and heir of

Elizabeth Bell he got a Precept on 5th December, 1783 (*Sasine, P.R.S.*, 28th May, 1788); Walter Bell, portioner in Stockbriggs, being a Witness. Walter Bell, writer in Dumfries, acted as his agent. He died on 12th April, 1788, aged 51 years (Tomb, Ecclefechan), survived by his widow, Elizabeth Armstrong.

On 18th January, 1788, a Submission was entered into between him and Walter Bell, both described as portioners of Stockbriggs, for dividing the forty shilling lands hitherto held *pro indiviso*. By the Decree Arbitral the North half of the lands (Stockbridghill) was allocated to John, and the South half (Nether Stockbriggs) to Walter (*Sheriff Court Books*, 30th April, 1788).

6. JOHN BELL.—On 27th October, 1791, he as eldest son of John got a Precept (*P.R.S.*, 1st February, 1792), and on 25th December, 1801, Walter Bell, in implement of the Decree Arbitral, executed a Disposition in his favour of the North half of the land. He was infeft on 12th January, 1802 (*P.R.S.*, 26-147); James Bell in Stockbriggs being Procurator; Archibald Bell in Ecclefechan and William Bell in Stockbriggs being Witnesses; and George Bell, writer in Ecclefechan, and of the Edinburgh Diocese Notary Public, being the Notary. In 1801 he sold the North half of the lands, then occupied by him and Elizabeth Armstrong, his mother, to Colonel Matthew Murray of Haregills (*P.R.S.*, 27th February, 1802).

In legal proceedings in 1800 it was stated that he for several years past had been in the practice of purchasing cattle in the county of Dumfries and carrying them to England for sale, William Johnstone of Cleuchheads being the practical partner in the venture (*Signet Library Session Papers*, 413-8).

John Bell and Betty Henderson, his spouse, had the following children (*Middlebie Register*) :—

1. Elizabeth (born 1792).
2. Janet (born 1794).
3. Peggy (born 1795).
4. William (born 1799).
5. George (born 1801).
6. Christopher (born 1802).

*South Half (Nether Stockbriggs).*

1. JOHN BELL.—On 22nd January, 1649, John Bell, eldest son of the deceased Walter Bell of Stockbriggs, got a

Charter of the *pro indiviso* half of the forty shilling land from William Murray of Murraythwaite. Sasine dated 31st July, 1649, followed thereon. Of the same date he got a grant of the ward and non-entry duties since the decease of Andrew Bell, father of the said Walter.

2. ANDREW BELL.—As brother of John he got a Precept on 6th December, 1660 (*P.R.S.*, 15th February, 1661).

In 1684 Andrew, portioner in Stockbridge, is mentioned (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629).

3. WALTER BELL.—On 16th March, 1693, William Murray of Murraythwaite, as Superior, granted a Precept to Walter Bell, son to Andrew Bell (*P.R.S.*, 22nd March, 1693). This deed was a production in the process of Division of Middlebie Commonly, which began in 1744 and to which he was a party (Mackenzie's *Decree's*, Register House, 11th January, 1774).

4. WILLIAM BELL.—On 16th October, 1750, as eldest son of Walter he got a Precept (*P.R.S.*, 30th October, 1750). He married Janet Smith. Children :—

(1) Walter (below).

(2) Janet (baptised 20th May, 1750).

(3) William (baptised 25th September, 1758).

5. WALTER BELL.—On 21st June, 1770, he got a Precept as eldest son and heir of William, and was a party to the Submission in 1786 which resulted in him getting the southern half of the property conform to Disposition by John Bell in his favour, dated 25th December, 1801. William and James Bell, both in Nether Stockbridges, were Witnesses to the Sasine of Colonel Matthew Murray when he bought the North half (*P.R.S.*, 27th February, 1802).

He married Margaret Anderson. Sons :—

(1) William (baptised 27th January, 1774).

(2) James (baptised 7th July, 1776).

6. WILLIAM BELL.—He served heir to his father, Walter, on 25th July, 1822, and got a Charter from Murraythwaite (*P.R.S.*, 7th January, 1825). By his Settlement (5th September, 1861; *P.R.S.*, 5th January, 1866) he conveyed his lands to his sons, Christopher and Thomas, under burden of legacies to other members of his family, which consisted of :—

(1) Christopher.

(2) Thomas.

(3) Walter, who seems to have disappeared, as he did not discharge his provision.

(4) William in Ladywells, who died in 1876, aged 32 years. He married Helen Johnstone, who died at Lockerbie on 10th April, 1882. The tomb at Ecclefechan records the deaths of his children—Walter, Janet, and William (who died in 1879, aged 20 years).

(5) Janet, who married Matthew Carlyle in Dirrops.

(6) Margaret, who married Thomas Craig, Halldykes.

(7) Mary, who married Joseph Kennedy, Lockerbie.

(8) Jean, who married Walter Hamilton, Lockerbie.

7. THOMAS BELL.—Thomas and Christopher got a Charter in 1868. The latter conveyed his half of the lands to Thomas, who in 1869 conveyed Stockbridge to Andrew Anderson.

## NETHER ALBIE.

Pennersax Parish.

JOHN BELL OF CROWDIEKNOWE.—On 3rd August, 1703 (*P.R.S.*), he was infeft in Nether Albie and in Albie in Warrandice.

JOHN BELL OF NETHER ALBIE (1703-1777).—On 24th December, 1748, John Graham of Crowdieknowe, the successor of John Bell, last of Crowdieknowe, granted a Feu Charter of Nether Albie to John Bell in Potstown. He died on 10th September, 1777, aged 74 years, and Helen Bell, his spouse, died on 15th February, 1803, aged 94 years. (Tomb, Pennersaugh's).

They had four sons:—

1. Walter of Nether Albie (1743-1817).—He got a Precept from Sir William Pulteney, the Superior, as heir to John, his father (*G.R.S.*, 24th May, 1792). He sold Nether Albie to John Halliday, tacksman of Howes, afterwards residing in Dundee (*P.R.S.*, 18th August, 1806), whose Trustees sold to Sir John S. Heron Maxwell of Springkell in 1838. Walter Bell died in October, 1817, aged 74 years (Tomb). He married Joan Carlyle, daughter of John Carlyle of Satur (*Minute Books of C. and S.*, 17th September, 1808).

2. William Bell (1744-1802).—He died on 25th March, 1802, aged 58 years. His wife, Mary Edgar, died on 3rd May, 1820, aged 61 years (Tomb).

3. Richard Bell (1747-1818).—He died on 8th July, 1818, aged 71 years.

4. Robert Bell, born 5th June, 1752 (*Middlebie Register*).



Janet Bell, daughter of David Bell in Nether Albie and Janet Halliday, was baptised at Knowehead, in Kirkpatrick, on 7th October, 1810 (*Middlebie Register*).

**BETWEEN-THE-WATERS (OR LAKES).** Carruthers Parish.

This property derived its name from the fact that it lay between the Kirtle and Kirkburn. It included the farms of Gilmartin, Whiteleys, and Foulton, which in 1856 were acquired by Thomas Johnstone Carlyle of Templehill.

In 1606 caution was granted for Andrew Bell, Between-the-Lakes, and Jock and Willie Bell, there (*R.P.C.*, VII., 619); and about 1669 John Bell, Between-the-Lakes, is mentioned (*P.P.C.*, 3rd Series, 695, etc.).

Francis Bell, son to Walter Bell, Between-the-Waters, was Witness to a Sasine in Blackethouse in 1669 (*G.R.S.*, Vol. 23/144).

In March, 1677, William, second son of John Bell of Crowdieknowe, was infeft in these lands and in Steilston and Hotts on a Disposition by John Bell, his father, with consent of Thomas, his eldest son (*P.R.S.*, II., 181); and of the same date Agnes Bell, his spouse, daughter of George Bell of Godsbrig, was infeft in one-third thereof on her marriage (under Marriage Contract, 8th December, 1676). William was entered in the Roll of Heritors in 1684 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629-631).

William Bell succeeded to the Crowdieknowe Estate, including Betwixt-the-Waters, on the death of his brother Thomas in 1691, and was succeeded by his son, John, last of Crowdieknowe, in 1698. As detailed under the Crowdieknowe section, the estate was acquired by John Graham, who in 1748 granted a Feu Charter of Betwixt-the-Waters to Richard Bell of Greenhill (*G.R.S.*, 2nd March, 1750), who was the son of George (below), and another Charter of the adjoining lands of Hotts to William Bell, eldest son of John Bell of Cushethill (*P.R.S.*, 29th March, 1750).

**GEORGE BELL OF GREENHILL.**—He married Janet Wilson, only daughter of Matthew Wilson, tenant of Greenhill, in Lochmaben Parish. Matthew, described as "in Greinhill, heritable proprietor and wadsetter of the twenty merk land of Bengall," was a party to the Marriage Contract, dated 10th August, 1655, of John Wilson, his eldest son, and Issobel Bell,



the sister of John Bell of Crowdieknowe (*P.R.S.*, Vol. 6/78). George and his wife got a Feu Charter of Greenhill from Viscount Stormont on 23rd May, 1710. George had a sister, Elizabeth Bell, first wife of Christopher Armstrong in Howdale (Post Nuptial Marriage Contract, 6th September, 1736), and who died in December, 1753 (Testamant, 23rd November, 1754); his Executor being Elizabeth Armstrong, his only daughter. Their children included :—

1. Richard Bell of Greenhill (of whom below).

2. Sibella.

3. Jean Bell, who married Joseph Richardson of Pearsbyhall, and who was deceased in 1790. They were parents of Jean Richardson, the eldest daughter, and George Richardson, the second son, both of whom were Executors of Sibella.

RICHARD BELL OF GREENHILL.—He succeeded his father in Greenhill, and feued Between-the-Waters in 1748. He married Mary Carruthers, daughter of John Carruthers of Dormont and Mary Bell, his spouse, daughter of William Bell of Winterhopehead.

By Bond of Provision dated 15th November, 1764, in favour of his younger children, he appointed as their tutors his wife, Janet Wilson, portioner of Greenhill, his mother, Francis Carruthers of Dormont, and Robert Henderson of Cleughheads (*Commissary Court Books*, Bundle, 1768).

He died in December, 1764, his Testament being given up by John, his eldest son.

1. John Bell of Greenhill served heir to his father, 26th November, 1772, and in the same year he acquired Hotts from William Bell. He was admitted W.S. on 24th November, 1774, and was drowned while bathing a little below his own house, where the Kirtle and Kirkburn meet, on 9th September, 1776, in his 27th year.

2. George Bell was born on his father's estate in 1755. In 1771 he moved to Edinburgh under the care of "his friend and relation, Mr Benjamin Bell," and took his M.D. degree. He served heir to John, his brother, 2nd March, 1779 (*P.R.S.*, 5th May, 1779). He settled in Manchester, and died there on 3rd February, 1784 (Testament, Edinburgh, Vol. 1261; *Memoir of James Currie*, by W. W. Currie, pp. 18 and 449).

3. Jean Bell.

4. Mary Bell.

Jean and Mary Bell served heirs to their brother George (*P.R.S.*, 10th July, 1784), and disposed Between-the-Waters to David Balfour on 7th December, 1786.

There were other Bells tenants in Between-the-Waters :—John Bell, who married Margaret Henderson, and had a son, William (baptised 22nd August, 1792); John, who married Mary Jardine, and had a son, John (baptised 14th September, 1794); and George, who married Janet Corrie, and had a son (baptised 1st April, 1804; *Middlebie Register*).

### HOTTS.

### Carruthers Parish.

The connection of these lands with the Crowdieknowe Estate is narrated in dealing with Between-the-Waters. John Graham of Crowdieknowe on 27th December, 1748, granted a Feu Charter to William Bell (*P.R.S.*, 29th March, 1750).

WILLIAM BELL OF HOTTS.—He was designed in the Charter of 1748 as “eldest son of John Bell of Cushethill.” Cushethill was part of the Blackethouse property, but investigations have failed to trace a John as owner of that part of the estate.

He may have been the William Bell described in the *Middlebie Register* in 1744 as “in Middlebie,” and in 1748 as “formerly in Middlebie now in Hotts,” who by his wife, Sibella Bell, had three sons :—

John (baptised 23rd December, 1744).

William (baptised 31st January, 1748).

Thomas (baptised 21st January, 1750).

In the *Register* the marriage of “William Bell of Hotts” to Janet Beattie is recorded on 13th December, 1750. Of this marriage there were four children :—

1. Mary Bell (born 1751), who married Peter Bell in Minsca (see that section) in June, 1782, and died on 23rd September, 1817, aged 66 years.

2. John Bell (born 1755), who died at Carterton on 26th November, 1844, aged 90 years (Tomb, Middlebie).

3. William Bell (born 1758), who died at Blackwood-ridge in 1821, aged 63 years, and who appears to have had a son, William, who predeceased his father in January, 1818 (Tomb, Middlebie).

4. Walter Bell (born 14th March, 1760; *Middlebie Register*), and who probably died in 1770, aged 10 years (Tomb, Middlebie).

William Bell sold Hotts to John Bell of Greenhill and Between-the-Waters in 1772.

The following entries of names connected with Hotts have been noted from the *Parish Register* :—

Walter Beattie and Agnes Bell in Hots, who had a daughter, Blanch (baptised 10th January, 1749).

William Bell and Margaret Smith in Hots, who had a daughter, Jean (baptised 16th June, 1749).

Walter Bell and Amy Dalrymple, who had a daughter, Janet Dalrymple Bell (baptised at Hotts on 25th March, 1817).

# WINTERHOPEHEAD.

Carruthers Parish.

This property, situated on the sources of the Kirtle Water, forms the northern portion of the Parish.

WALTER BELL IN WINTERHOPEHEAD.—He married Agnes Armstrong, who died in 1653, survived by her husband. From her Testament, recorded on 26th March, 1657, it appears they had two sons, Thomas and Francis. Janet, her daughter, married Richard Bell, second son of George Bell of Godsbrig (Marriage Contract, 10th November, 1676). In 1678 she was infest in an annual rent out of Blackethouse (*P.R.S.*, II., 287).

GEORGE BELL OF WINTERHOPEHEAD.—He was a Heritor in 1684 (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 629, 631). He was probably the father of :—

1. William Bell of Winterhopehead (below).
2. Richard, "brother to William Bell in Winterhopehead." He and William were Witnesses in 1678 (*P.R.S.*, II., 263). The Testament of Richard was recorded on 5th November, 1742.

WILLIAM BELL OF WINTERHOPEHEAD.—He married — Armstrong, who died in 1714 (Tomb, Carruthers), and had two daughters :—

1. Mary Bell, the elder, married John Carruthers of Dormont (Marriage Contract, 10th August, 1708). Upon her Winterhopehead was settled, and to which lands Francis Carruthers of Dormont, as heir male under the Marriage Contract, completed a title (*P.R.S.*, 13th July, 1736). She served heir in general to her sister, 30th April, 1751. Her youngest daughter, Mary Carruthers, is said to have married Richard Bell of Greenhill and Between-the-Waters.

2. Jean Bell, who married John Bell of Whitstonehill, sometime in Winterhopehead and Between-the-Waters, son of Thomas Bell of Minsea, and grandson of Thomas of Crowdieknowe. She had a provision of 4000 merks out of Winterhopehead. She died before 17th January, 1733, when her Testament was recorded, leaving an only daughter, Jean, who survived one year. John Bell, her father, on 10th April, 1733, served his daughter heir to her mother in the provision, and to complete his title to it served heir to his daughter, 30th June, 1748 (*Retours, Dumfries*; Morison's *Dict. of Decisions*, 14016; *Signet Library Session Papers*, Vol. 33, No. 6).

Although Winterhopehead passed to the Carruthers family, Bells appear to have remained as tenants, for John Bell in Winterhopehead had a daughter, Sibella, baptised 22nd December, 1778; and William Bell there had a son, William, baptised 28th October, 1781 (*Middlebie Register*).

#### WATER OF MILK.

St. Mungo Parish.

In 1569, under the heading, Bellis of the Watter of Milk, David Bell, callit the Young King, entered pledge for himself, Mathe Bell, and Watte Bell, thir brether men tenentis and servandis; and Lord Maxwell was bound to present Mathe, called the Kingis Mathe (*R.P.C.*, II., 51).

In 1573 David Bell, "the Young King," was released on a bond by Edward Maxwell of Tinwald, Mathe Bell, his brother, being "entered" in his place (*R.P.C.*, II., 272, 296/7, 711, 735).

In 1581 Mathie, callit the King, was charged for attempts and slaughter within the West Marches (*R.P.C.*, III., 455).

In 1598 Rany Bell, callit "the King," and Nicoll and Rany Bellis, all men of Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, were charged with theft of cattle (*R.P.C.*, V., 467); and Davie of the Water of Mylk was involved in a raid (*Cal. Border Papers*, I., 558).

In 1616, James Maxwell, His Majesty's Usher, took proceedings for the removal from his lands of a number of Bells, their families, and goods. The list shows that there were then Bells in Castlemilk, Newtown, Middleshaw, Guilburn, Broatshaw, Holmhead, Howcleuch, Sorrysyke, Gimmonbie, and Shawhead, all on the Water of Milk (*R.P.C.*, X., 468); and about 1667 John Bell of Holmhead and several Bells in

Castlemilk are mentioned (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, II., 469, and III., 493).

In 1608 William Bell in Holmhead served heir to Janet Carruthers, his grandmother, and John Bell heir to Sibella Carruthers, his grandmother, in part of Middleshaw, called the third of Castlemilk and Gimmonbie (*Retours*, Dumfries, 58 and 60).

In 1684 no Bells were entered in the List of Heritors in St. Mungo Parish (*R.P.C.*, 3rd Series, IX., 646).

On 2nd January, 1733, Viscount Stormont, feued Castlemilktown (St. Mungo Parish) and Scalehill (Tundergarth) to John Bell in Scalehill. He was succeeded in 1777 by George Bell, his grandson, who sold Castlemilkton to William Robertson Lidderdale of Castlemilk and Scalehill to John Paxton of New Orchard.

John Irving of Whitehill married Mary Bell of Middlebie. Their son, John Irving (born 1680), married Isabel Stark, and their daughter, Mary Irving, married Thomas Bell (born 1714; died 1789), grandson of George Bell of Strands (Milkbank), Skellyholm, Nutholmhill, Bankside, and Middleshaw, in St. Mungo Parish. Their son was William Bell, afterwards William Bell Irving of Milkbank and Whitehill. (See *The Book of the Irvings*, by Col. J. B. Irving, which contains the pedigree of the Bell-Irving family.)

#### SKELLYHOLM (NOW GLENHOLM).

St. Mungo Parish.

JOHN BELL IN NETHER GIMMENBIE in 1747 got a Feu Charter from Douglas of Dornoch.

THOMAS BELL, his son, succeeded in 1770.

THOMAS BELL, his son, who married Margaret Lyon, succeeded in 1795. He had a sister, Jean.

JOHN BELL, the only son of Thomas, resided at Albie and married Elspeth Blacklock, who survived him. He left three daughters—Helen, Margaret, and Joanna Blacklock Bell, all residing at Albie.

The property was sold under a Bond in 1843.

*Note.*—Margaret Bell, one of the four heirs portioners of Robert Bell of Albie, married Thomas Blacklock in Albie (see that section). She had a son, John Blacklock, who acquired the shares of Albie between 1775 and 1792.

**MILTON AND NEWHALL.**

Tundergarth Parish.

James, Earl of Hartfell, feued Piercebyhall and Priestbutts to Christopher Johnstoun of Grains in 1653. In 1736 his grandson, John Johnstone, disposed to David Bell (*Books of C. and S.*, 6th June, 1740).

David Bell by his Settlement (*Sheriff Court Books*, 26th November, 1748) conveyed to John and David Bell, his nephews (sons of John Bell in Turnmuir, his brother), his lands of Newhall and Dinninghill; and to John and William Bell, his nephews (sons of William Bell in Mantuarig, his brother), his lands of Priestbutts and Piercebyhall, which were acquired by Robert Rogerson, and passed out of the Bell family.

In 1823 Newhall and Dinninghill were divided, John (first above mentioned) getting the half called Milton, bounded on the east by Crawthat, on the west by the Water of Milk, and on the north by Piercebyhill, etc.; while David, his brother, got the part called Newhall, bounded on the east and north-east by Milton, on the south by Grange, and on the west by Paddockhole and the Milk. David sold Newhall to Robert Carlyle, Waterbeck. He died in June, 1793, aged 78 years.

John married Janet Crone, and disposed Milton to his son, John (Sasine, 30th November, 1829), who married Agnes Carlyle. He also acquired Newhall from Thomas Johnstone Carlyle (Sasine, 5th December, 1856), the son of Robert Carlyle, who had acquired these lands from David Bell (mentioned above).

John Bell survived his wife, and died at Lockerbie on 20th March, 1872, aged 84 years.

In 1860 he had disposed Milton and Newhall to his son, Dr Robert Carlyle Bell (Sasine, 30th September, 1861), who married Jane Cross, who died at Edinburgh on 25th January, 1870. In 1874 he sold the properties to Mr Saunders, whose wife was a cousin of the Bells and of the Carlyles, their mothers having been sisters. Dr Bell left four daughters, none of whom married.

**TUNDERGARTH TENANTS.**

Some of the families of Bells who lived in this parish may be noted from the Parish Registers between 1791 and 1819.

All the scattered names in the Registers are not here noted, but only those who appear to have been tenants of particular farms for a considerable period.

## COURSTOWN.

William Bell, who was interred on 23rd April, 1803, aged 62 years, had a daughter, Janet (born 1792), who married John Anderson, Scroggs (1815).

David Bell, married 1808. Children :—William (born 1809), Thomas (1810), Margaret (born 1814, died 1818), and James (1818).

William Bell, married Janet Smith, Lochhead, 14th January, 1814. Children :—James (1814) and William (1818).

Mary Bell, married John Walker, 1816.

## LAIRDHOLM.

David Bell was father of Margaret (born 1799) and Martin (1801).

## MOSSHEAD.

Richard Bell, died 1814, aged 75 years.

Richard Bell, jun., married Mary Smith (1800). Children :—Agnes (1801, died same year), John (1802), Thomas (1804), and Mary (1805).

William Bell, married Janet Graham (1814). Children :—Richard (1815) and Agnes (1817, and died same year).

## PRIESTBUTTS.

John Bell of Priesbutts, interred 18th March, 1807, aged 79 years.

## SCROGGS.

William Bell, tenant, died 1800, aged 68 years.

John Bell, tenant, was father of Mary (1800), John Irving (1802), and James (1804).

Richard Bell, tenant, was father of Agnes (1807), Janet (1808), Jane (1809, died young), Richard (1810, died young), Richard (1812), Ann (1814), and William (1816, died young).

## WYLIEHOLE.

Walter Bell, died 1803, aged 79 years, and Janet Bell, his spouse, died 1800, aged 75 years.



William Bell was the father of Barbara (1798), Walter and William (twins, 1801), Richard Ann (daughter, 1801), James (1804), Helen (1806), James (1808), William (1810), Thomas (1811). James died in 1808, aged 4 years, and William died in 1808, aged 9 years.

### RAMMERSCALES.

Dalton Parish.

THOMAS BELL, who is said to have been of Between-the-Waters family, was the brother of the Rev. William Bell, minister of Campsie, who died s.p. 8th May, 1783. Thomas married at Ecclefechan on 23rd September, 1756, Margaret Carruthers, daughter of James Carruthers of Breckonhill and Mary Carruthers of Hardriggs, his wife, who was born on 29th September, 1728, and was buried at Middlebie on 13th April, 1808. They had five children:—

1. William Bell of Rammerscales (born 24th November, 1757) was a merchant in Glasgow, and also partner to John Kincaid at Edinburgh Sugar House. He succeeded to Rammerscales on the death of his brother James, to whom he served heir in general in 1807 and in lands in Renfrew in 1809. He died on 12th September, 1837, aged 80 years, and was succeeded by his nephew.

2. James Bell of Rammerscales (born 14th December, 1759). He bought Rammerscales in 1802. On his death at a house near the end of Broomilaw on 20th August, 1807, it passed to his brother William.

3. Richard Bell (born in December, 1764, and who died at South Sugar House, Glasgow, on 16th December, 1801, s.p., having married Mary, daughter of Rev. Richard Hopkins, Rector of Wellingborough.

4. Mary Bell (born 10th March, 1764), who married at Hamilton on 30th July, 1798, Donald Macdonald (born 24th May, 1759), descended from Donald Macdonald (born 1665) of the Clanronald family (see Burke's *Landed Gentry*). She died in 1816, aged 52 years. Her son,

William Bell Macdonald of Rammerscales (born 26th December, 1807) succeeded his maternal uncle, William, in 1837. He married in 1839 Helen, daughter of Thomas Johnstone of Underwood, and dying on 5th December, 1862, was succeeded by his eldest son,



William Bell Macdonald of Rammerscales (born 9th January, 1845), Captain, Royal Scots. He married Violet Frances, daughter of John Buckley Rutherford. He died in June, 1923, and was succeeded by his son,

William Malcolm Bell Macdonald (born 20th June, 1884), married Nora Millicent Hebden, daughter of Edward Field Hebden, of Montreal, and has issue—Alan Malcolm (born 31st March, 1914).

5. Margaret Bell (born 10th April, 1766), married a Mr James Jardine, with the following issue :—

(1) James Bell Jardine, surgeon in London.

(2) Thomas Jardine, writer at Moffat.

(3) David Jardine, agent for the Glasgow Union Bank at Moffat.

(4) Richard Bell Jardine, died unmarried.

(5) Margaret Jardine, married — Burnie in Moffat.

(6) Jean Jardine, who appears to have resided at St. Michael's, Lockerbie.

(7) Mary Jardine, married Rev. Joseph Taylor, Lockerbie.

(8) Murray Jardine, married William Johnston, teacher at Carlisle and Eskbank.

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#### AUTHOR'S NOTE.

In these pages no attempt has been made—except incidentally—to trace connections between the Dumfriesshire Bells and those who bear that name in other parts of the country. For the benefit of any who desire to explore an unknown country, the following paths may be indicated :—

In the *Rammerscales Memorials* it is stated “the sirname of Bell is far spread in the west.” The writer sets forth that John Bell, son of Kirkconnell and Blackethouse, in the days of James V. (1513-42), came with the Earl of Angus to the west, who settled him in the lands of Cleilantownhead, in the Barony of Bothwell. That one of that race, John, settled in Glasgow in 1638 and died in London in 1641. That he

left three sons—(1) James, whose arms are matriculated in the Lyon Office, and from whom were descended the Bells of Antermony, Stirling, and the Bells, town clerks of Linlithgow; (2) Patrick, magistrate of Glasgow, grandfather of Patrick Bell of Dunsayton; and (3) Sir John Bell of Hamilton Farm, frequently Provost of Glasgow temp. Charles II. and James VII.

That another brother of this family settled in Glasgow, Robert Bell, whose son, Mr John Bell, was minister of Glasgow from 1638 downwards, ancestor of Mr Robert Bell, minister of Crailing, whose daughter married John Luke, from whom came the families of the Lukes and the Boyles at Glasgow.

The *Memorials* also refer to Bell of Bellford, in Teviotdale, who bought Mow temp. Charles I., and the Bell of Whiteside, in Galloway. All the above acknowledged, it is stated, the Bells of Blackethouse as their chief.

Some notes as to members of the Bell family in Ireland, said to be descended from Adam Bell, a settler from the Borders about 1700, is given in a pamphlet entitled "A Family Sketch," by Thomas William Bell, Deputy Registrar of the Land Registry in Ireland.

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- — — 2. Francis, 63; Francis and Thomas, his sons, 63.
- — — 3. William, Jamaica (b. 1791), 63.
- — — 4. Jean, m. John Pattie, 63.

— — — John (1784-1849), who bought Carruthers, m. Anne Johnstone, 63 (see of Torbeckhill).

- — — George (1820-91), his son, 64, m. Isabella N. Newbigging, 64.
  1. Jane, m. Wm. Hamilton.
  2. John, d. s.p.
  3. Annie.
  4. Mary, m. Jas. Fleming.
  5. Isabella.
  6. Wm. Archibald.
  7. Georgina, 64.
- — — John (1822-80), his bro., 64.

BELL of Castlebank, Richard (1600), 50.

— — — John, and Walter, Richard, William, Francis, and Thomas, his bros., 50-51.

BELL of Castlemilktown and Scalehill, John (1733); George, his gr. son, 81.

BELL of Cleilandtownhead (1513), 85 ; descendant, John (1638).

1. James (Antermony).
2. Patrick (Dunsayton).
3. Sir John (Hamilton Farm), 86.

BELL of Clints, Dik, etc., 14.

BELL of Cowholm, Thomas (1459), 12, 49.

BELL of Crowdie Castle, Walter, 8.

BELL of Crowdieknowe, John, 52, 53.

— — — Thomas (1581-1646), his son, 52, 53, 54, 60, 66, m.  
Bessie Bell, 52.

1. John (below).
2. Walter (1626-94), 52, 53.
3. Thomas (1642-93) (see B. of Minsca).
4. George, 52, 53.
5. Richard (1645-1714) (see of Crurie), 52, 53, 60, 61, 66.
6. Isobel, m. John Wilson, Greenhill, 52, 76, 77.

— — — John (1620-86), 18, 19, 20, 44, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 60,  
m. Isobel Bell, 54.

1. Thomas (below).
2. William (below).
3. Walter (see of Torbeckhill).
4. John, 55.
5. Robert, 55.
6. Janet, m. Wm. B., Godsbrig, 41-44.
7. Jean, 55-56.

— — — Thomas (1647-91), 54, 55, 56, 76, m. Margt. Johnston,  
56.

— — — William (1649-98), his bro., 22, 56, 60, 61, 76, m. Agnes  
Bell, Godsbrig, 56, 61, 76.

1. John (below).
2. Jean, m. (1) Jo. Scott, and (2) John B. of Crurie, 56, 58.
3. Sibella, m. Adam Carlyle of Bridekirk, 57, 58.
4. Agnes, m. Ro. Rutherford, 57, 58.
5. Isobel, m. Jas. Currie, 57, 58, 59, 67.

— — — John (1661-1727), 40, 42, 45, 53, 55, 56, 57-59, 60, 62,  
75, 76, m. Ann Crichton, 58.

Walter, in Hiddleston, his heir, 58.

BELL of Crurie, Richard (1645-1714), son of Thomas of Crowdieknowe, 34, 53,  
60, 61, 66, 67, m. Sibella, dr. of Geo. Bell of Godsbrig, 66.

1. John (below).
2. Richard, m. Sibella Bell, 66.
3. Thomas (below).

— — — John, 57, 58, 61, 66, 67, m. Jean, dr. of William of Crowdie-  
knowe, 57, 67.

— — — Thomas (1686-1754), his brother, 20, 53, 61, 66, 67, 68, m.  
Helen Currie, 67.

1. Richard (below).
2. John, in Raeburnhead, 68.



## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

BELL of Crurie—*continued*.

- — Richard (1729-94), 7, 68, m. Christian Graham, 7, 68.
1. Thomas (below).
  2. Margaret, m. Josias Walker, 69.
  3. Helen, 69.
- — Thomas (1763-1833), 68, 69, m. Isobel Pott, 69.
1. Richard, m. Jean Henderson, 69.
    - (1) Isabell, m. J. J. M. Borthwick, 69.
    - (2) Thomas, in Tanlawhill, 69.
    - (3) Richard, 69.
  2. George G. Bell (below).
  3. Thomas, 69.
  4. Christian, 69.
  5. Isabella, 69.
  6. Christina, 69.
- — George Graham Bell (1796-1875), 69, 70, m. Janet Martin, 70.
1. Thomas, m. Rose Hedger, 70.
    - (1) George G. Bell of Crurie, 70.
    - (2) Annie, m. W. A. V. Garratt, 70.
    - (3) Francis, 70.
    - (4) Mary, m. F. M. de la Fosse.
    - (5) Rose.
    - (6) Thomas, m. Rose C. Lyall.
    - (7) Katherine, m. A. Mangin.
    - (8) Richard.
    - (9) Philip, m. Mary H. Mackenzie ; Geo. C. Bell, his son, 70.
  2. Elizabeth (Eliza), m. John Wilson, 70.
  3. Isabella, 70.
  4. Janet, m. Lord Young, 70.
  5. Christian, m. Archibald Steuart, 70 ; James Steuart, their son, 70.
  6. Richard of Crurie (below).
  7. Stephana, 71.
  8. Georgina, m. Thos. E. Steuart, 70.
- — Richard, 70-71, m. (1) Jane Aitchison, (2) Margt. Marshall, (3) Henrietta M. Somerville, 71.
1. Jane.
  2. George.
  3. Janet.
  4. William Aitchison Bell, now of Crurie.
  5. Richard.
  6. Eliza Mary.
  7. Lillias May.
  8. Thomas.
  9. John, 70.

BELL of Curre, Thomas, 13, 49.

BELL of Cushethill, John ; William, his son (see of Hotts).

BELL of Dirrops, George, 22.

- BELL of Dockenflat, Walter, son of Wm. B. of Albie, 24, 32, 34, m. Frances Bell and Grizel Lawson, 24, 32 ; Thomas, his son, 24.
- — — — — Walter, son of John Bell of Crowdieknowe, 22, 41, 42, 45, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61.
- BELL of Dunnabie (and Scotsbrig), John, 44, 45, 59, m. Agnes Johnston, Wyliehole, 45.
1. Sibella.
2. Richard (below).
3. Ann.
4. William.
5. John, 45.
- — — — — Richard, m. Isabel Anne Beattie, 45.
1. John (below).
2. Helen, m. Jas. H. Stewart, Gillenbie, 45.
- — — — — John, 45, m. Charlotte H. Niven, 45.
- (For earlier proprietors see 44-46.)
- BELL of Dunsayton, Patrick, 86.
- BELL of Glenholm (or Skellyholm), John (1747), 81.
- — — — — Thomas, his son (1770), 81.
- — — — — Thomas, his son, m. Margt. Lyon, 81 ; Jean, his sister, 81.
- — — — — John, m. Elspeth Blacklock, 81.
1. Helen.
2. Margaret.
3. Joanna, 81.
- BELL of Godsbrig (and Scotsbrig), Ronald or Rany (1600), 5, 30, 37.
- David, his brother, 37.
- — — — — Walter, (1622), son of Wm. B., "Redcloak," 29, 37, 38.
- — — — — John, 38, 44, m. Sibella Irving, 38, and (?) Isobel Bell, 38, 41, 44.
1. William.
2. Robert.
3. George (below).
4. Marie.
5. Sibella.
6. Agnes, 38.
- — — — — (and Scotsbrig), George, "The Covenanter," (1624-91), 16, 19, 31, 35, 38-41, 42, 44, 56.
- m. (1) Sibella Irving, 39.
1. William (below).
2. Richard (1678), m. (1) Janet B. (Winterhope-head), 39, 40, 79.
3. George (1696), 39, 40.
4. Jean, m. Wm. Johnstone of Broomhouses, 40.
5. Mary, m. John Carlyle of New Park, 40.
6. Agnes, 40, m. Wm. Bell of Crowdieknowe, 76.
7. Sibella, m. Richard Bell of Crurie, 40, 66.
- m. (2) Susanna Irving, 40.
8. John (d. cir. 1697), 39, 40.
- m. (3) Isobel Bell, 35, 40, 41.

## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

BELL of Godsbrig (and Scotsbrig), George—*continued*.

9. Benjamin (see of Blackethouse).

10. Thomas, 41.

11. Margaret, 14.

12. Jean, m. Jas. Carlyle of Brackenwhat, 14.

— — William (1677), 24, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 53, 55, 56, m.

Janet, dr. of Jo. Bell of Crowdieknowe, 41, 44, 55.

— — (of Scotsbrig), William (1710), 24, 34, 42, 44, 47, 55, m. Jean  
or Janet, dr. of Wm. Bell of Blackethouse, 34, 42, 44.

1. Jean, m. Peter Graham, in Whitecastles, 43.

2. Janet or Jane, m. Jo. Bell of Whitstonehill, 43.

3. Sibella, m. Richard Bell of Dunnabie, 43.

4. Helen, m. Jo. B., in Potstown, 43, 75.

5. Agnes, m. Walter Bell, in Neuk, 42, 43, 47.

6. Ann, m. Rev. J. Lowrie, 42, 43.

in Scotsbrig, John, 43, m. Elizabeth Bell, 43 ; John, his son, 43.

BELL of Greenhill, George, m. Janet Wilson, 76.

1. Richard (below).

2. Sibella, 77.

3. Jean, m. Jos. Richardson, and children, 77.

Elizabeth, his sister, m. Christopher Armstrong, 77,  
Elizabeth, dr., 77.

— — Richard (1748), 59, 76, 77, m. Mary Carruthers (Dormont),  
77-79.

1. John (d. 1776), 77.

2. George, M.D., 77.

3. Jean.

4. Mary, 77, 78.

BELL of Hamilton Farm, Sir John, 86.

BELL of The Hill (see of Middlebie Hill).

BELL of Holmhead, John, 80.

BELL of Hotts, William (1748), 59, 62, 76, 78, probably twice married.

m. (1) Sibella Bell, 78.

1. John.

2. William.

3. Thomas, 78.

m. (2) Janet Beattie.

1. Mary, m. Peter Bell, Minsca.

John of Whiteknow, son ; also drs., 62 and 78.

2. John, Carterton, 62, 78.

3. William, 78.

4. Walter, 78.

BELL of Howalside, Richard, 12.

BELL of the Kirk, Thomas (1617) ; George, Wat, and Richard, his bros., 50.

BELL of Kirkconnel, William (1426), 15.

— — Thomas (1451), 15, 16, 26.

— — John (1551), 16.

BELL of Kirkleton, Richard, 32.

BELL of Kirksleights, John, 13.

BELL of the Lands, Criste, 17.

BELL of Laverhay and Poldeen, William, 14, 16.

BELL of Middlebie, David (1459), 14, 49.

BELL of Middlebiehill, Oswald, 49, 50.

Walter, 49, John, David, sons, 50.

— in — William, 50, George, Walter, and Ritchie, bros., 50.

BELL of Milton and Newhall, David (1736), 82.

John, in Turnmuir, brother, 82.

(1) John of Milton, m. Janet Crone, 82.

(a) John of Milton, his son, m. Agnes Carlyle, 82.

(a) Robert Carlyle Bell, M.D., of Milton and Newhall, m. Jane Cross, 82.

(2) David of Newhall, 82.

William, in Mantuarig, 82, brother of David (1736) (above).

(1) John of Priestbutts, 82.

(2) William of Priestbutts, 82.

BELL of Minsca, Thomas (1642-93), son of Thomas Bell of Crowdieknowe, 53, 60, 61.

m. (1) Jean Bell (Neuk), 61.

George Bell, his son (below).

m. (2) Sibella Johnston, 61.

John, Whitstonehill, his son, 61.

— — George (b. 1675), 53, 56, 58, 60, 61, m. Mary Johnstone, Pearsbyhall.

— — and Torbeckhill, John (1712-78), his son, 59, 61, m. Jean Smith, 62.

1. George (below).

2. Patrick or Peter of Whiteknowe, 62, m. Mary Bell, Hotts, 62.

(1) John of Whiteknowe, 62.

(2) Sarah, m. Ro. Carruthers, 62.

3. Thomas, 62; John, s., 62; Rev. Thos., his grandson, 62.

— — and Torbeckhill, George (1742-1820), 63, m. Elizabeth Moffat, 63.

1. John of Torbeckhill and Carruthers (1784-1840), 63, m. Anne Johnstone, 63.

(1) George, 63.

(2) Jemima, m. Dr Wilson, 63.

(3) Elizabeth, m. Rev. A. Cross, 63.

(4) Jean, 63.

(5) Thomas (see of Torbeckhill).

(6) George (see of Carruthers).

(7) John (see of Carruthers).

(8) William, 64.

2. Thomas, Whitcastle, 65, m. Jane Murray, 65.

(1) George.

(2) John.

(3) Thomas, m. Elizabeth Bell; Thomas, son, 65.

## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

BELL of Minsca and Torbeckhill, George—*continued*.

3. George (below).

4. Jean, 65.

— — — George (1791-1877), 65, m. Sarah Murray, 65.

1. George.

2. Matthew.

3. Elizabeth.

4. John of Minsca (below).

5. Jean.

6. Thomas, 65.

— — — John (b. 1829), 65, m. Isabella M. Stothart, 65.

1. George (b. 1857), 65.

2. John Stothard, m. Janet Douglas, 65.

3. Elizabeth Jane, 65.

4. Thomas, m. Isabell Cumming, 65.

5. Mary Farries, 66.

6. Sara Murray, 66.

7. Janet A. Stothart, m. Rev. T. P. Rankine, 66.

BELL of Mow, 86.

BELL of Nether Albie, John (1703), 59, 75, m. Helen Bell, 75.

1. Walter, 75, m. Joan Carlyle, 75.

2. William, m. Mary Edgar, 75.

3. Richard.

4. Robert, 75.

— — — Francis, 59.

BELL of Neuk or Broadlea, William (1574), 27, 28, 46.

— — — Walter (1631), 16, 37, 46.

— — — Walter (1657), his son, 33, 39, 46, m. Mary Bell, 46 ; Walter and Mary, ch., 46.

— — — George (1670), 33 ; Walter, his son, 33.

— — — David ; John, his son, 46.

— — — Walter (1682), 46, 47.

— — — John and Walter, his sons, 48.

— in — John, m. Mary Bell ; Mary, his dr., 47.

— in — Walter (d. 1712), m. Isabella or Sibella Bell, 47, 48.

Walter, his son, m. Agnes Bell, 43, 47.

— of — John (d. 1850), m. Janet Davidson, 47.

1. Helen.

2. William.

3. Thomas.

4. George Irving.

5. John D.

6. Mary.

7. Richard, 47, 48.

BELL of Newhall (see of Milton).

BELL of Poldean (see of Laverhay).

BELL of Rammerscales, Thomas, ancestor of this branch, 84, m. Margaret Carruthers, 84.

Rev. Wm. Bell, his brother, 84.

BELL of Rammerscales, Thomas—*continued*.

Children of Thomas :—

- |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|---|
| --- | --- | 1. William, 84.   |
| --- | --- | 2. James, 84.   |
|     |     | 3. Richard, m. Mary Hopkins, 84.                                |
|     |     | 4. Mary, m. Donald Macdonald, 84.                               |
| --- | --- | William Bell Macdonald, her son, m. Helen Johnstone, 84.        |
| --- | --- | William Bell Macdonald, his son, m. Violet F. Rutherford, 85.   |
| --- | --- | William Malcolm Bell Macdonald, his son, m. Nora M. Hebden, 85. |
|     |     | Alan Malcolm, his son, 85.                                      |
|     |     | 5. Margaret, m. James Jardine.                                  |
|     |     | Her children, 85.   |

BELL of Satur, Francis (1652-1700), son of Wm. Bell of Albie, 21, 22, m. Janet Beattie, 22.

- |     |     |  |
|-----|-----|--|
|     |     | 1. William (below).                            |
|     |     | 2. Isabella, m. John Carlyle, Burrows, 22.     |
| --- | --- | William (d. 1769), m. Joan Bell, 22.           |
|     |     | 1. Mary.                                       |
|     |     | 2. Francis.                                    |
|     |     | 3. Sarah, m. Francis Carlyle.                  |
|     |     | 4. Jean of Satur, m. John Carlyle, writer, 23. |
| --- | --- | Walter (1670), 32.                             |

BELL of Scotsbrig (see of Godsbrig).

BELL of Skellyholm (see of Glenholm).

BELL of Stockbriggs, Andrew, 72.

- |     |     |  |
|-----|-----|--|
| --- | --- | John, his son (Stockbridgehill), 72.                         |
| --- | --- | John, his son (1649), 72.                                    |
| --- | --- | John, his son (d. 1726), 72.                                 |
| --- | --- | John, his son (1676-1731), m. Janet Currie, 72, 33.          |
| --- | --- | Elizabeth (1698-1781), his sister, m. John Bell, 72.         |
| --- | --- | John (1737-88), her son, 72, 73, m. Elizabeth Armstrong, 73. |
| --- | --- | John, his son, 73, 74, m. Betty Henderson, 73.               |
|     |     | Children, 73.  |
| --- | --- | Walter (Nether Stockbriggs), son of Andrew (above), 72, 73.  |
| --- | --- | John, eldest son of Walter (1649), 72, 74.                   |
| --- | --- | Andrew, his brother (1660), 74.                              |
| --- | --- | Walter, his son (1750), 72, 74, m. Janet Smith, 74.          |
|     |     | 1. Walter (below).   |
|     |     | 2. Janet.  |
|     |     | 3. William, 74.  |
| --- | --- | Walter (1770), 73, 74, m. Margt. Anderson, 74.               |
|     |     | 1. William (below).  |
|     |     | 2. James.  |
| --- | --- | William (1822), 74.  |
|     |     | 1. Christopher of S., 74, 75.                                |
|     |     | 2. Thomas of S., 74, 75.                                     |
|     |     | 3. Walter.   |

## The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire.

BELL of Stockbriggs, William—*continued*.

4. William.
5. Janet, m. Matt. Carlyle.
6. Margaret, m. Thos. Craig.
7. Mary, m. Jos. Kennedy.
8. Jean, m. Wm. Hamilton, 75.

BELL of Strands (Milkbank), George, 81 ; Thomas, his son ; William, his gr. son, 81.

BELL of Torbeckhill, Walter, son of John of Crowdieknowe, 22, 41, 42, 45, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62.

— — — John (1712-78) (see of Minsca).

— — — George (1742-1820), his son (see of Minsca).

— — — and Carruthers, John (1784-1849), his son, 63, m. Anne Johnstone, 63.

1. George (1811-19).
2. Jemima.
3. Elizabeth, m. Rev. A. Cross.
4. Jean.
5. Thomas (below).
6. George (see of Carruthers).
7. John (see of Carruthers).

— — — Thomas (1818-95), 64, m. Jane Carruthers, 64.

— — — 1. John (1859-1919), m. Kath. S. M'Laurin, s.p. 64.

— — — 2. Rachel, 64.

— — — 3. George.

— — — 4. Thomas.

— — — 5. Annie, m. Dr Geo. Johnstone.

— — — 6. Robert, 64.

BELL of Water of Milk, Matthew ("the King"), David ("the Young King"), Matthew, Walter, Rany ("the King"), Nicol, Rany, 80.

BELL of Whiteknowe, Peter (see of Minsca).

BELL of Whiteside, 86.

BELL of Whitstonehill, John, son of Thomas of Minsca (1642-93), 43, 61, 80.

m. (1) Jean Bell (Winterhopehead), (d. 1732), 80.  
Jean, her dr., 80.

m. (2) Janet Bell (Stockbriggs), (d. 1768), 43.

BELL in Winterhopehead, Walter, m. Agnes Armstrong, 79.

1. Thomas.

2. Francis.

3. Janet, m. Richard B. of Godsbrig, 79.

— of — George (1684), 79.

1. William (below).

2. Richard, 79.

— — — William, m. — Armstrong, 79.

1. Mary, m. Jo. Carruthers of Dormont, 79 ;  
Mary, dr., 79.

2. Jean, m. Jo. B. of Whitstonehill, 80 (see of Minsca) ; Jean, her dr., 80.



- BELL** of Woolcoats, Richard (1551), 16.  
     Daughter m. Wm. Irving, 16.
- BELL** of Wyliehole, Thomas, m. Grizel Johnston, 45.
- BELL** in Between-the-Waters, Andrew, John, and William (1606), 76.  
     John, Walter, and Francis (1669), 76.  
     John, m. Margt. Henderson, 78.  
         1. William, m. Mary Jardine, 78.  
            John, his son, 78.  
         2. George, m. Janet Corrie, 78.
- in Carruthers, Robin and John, 30.
- in Courstown, William and others, 83.
- in Crowdieknowe, George (1727) ; Sibella, his Exor., m. Robert Carlyle, 59.
- in Crurie, Andrew, 66.
- in Darglahills, Richard, etc., 51.
- in Gimmonbie (see of Skellyholm).
- in Grainhall, Richard and John, etc., 51, 72.
- in Hass, Adam, etc., 52.
- in Holmhead, William and John, 81.
- in Hotts, Walter, m. Agnes Bell, 79.
- ——— William, m. Margt. Smith, 79.
- ——— Walter, m. Amy Dalrymple, 79.
- in Kirkconnel, David and children, 16.
- in Lairdholm, David, 83.
- in Middlebie, Wm. (see of Hotts), 78.
- in Middlebiehill, Wat, 28, 30, 37 ; Oswald, 28, 29 ; David ("Oswald's Davie"), 37 ; Walter ("Oswald's Wattie"), 29.
- in Minsca, John, 16 ; Peter, 52.
- in Mosshead, Richard, etc., 83.
- in Nether Albie, David, m. Janet Halliday, 76.
- in Pennersax, David and others, 12, 51.
- in Potstown, John, m. Helen Bell (Scotsbrig), 43, 51, 75.
- in Priestbutts, John, 83.
- in Purdomstown, Ronald and Francis, etc., 38, 51.
- in Seroggs, William, etc., 83.
- in Setthornes, David, 16.
- in Stockbriggs, John and Richard, 72 ; Andrew and George, 72 ; James and William, 73, 74.
- in Torbeckhill, Walter (see of Dockenflat).
- in Townhead of Carruthers, Richard (see of Crurie).
- in Waterbeck, Adam, etc., 51, 52.
- in Whitehill, 52.
- in Winterhopehead, John ; Sibella, dr., 80.  
     William ; William, son, 80.  
     Walter ; Janet, dr., m. Richard Bell (Godsbrig), 39.
- in Wyliehole, Walter, etc., 83.
- BELL**, Adam, Ireland (1700), 86.
- Agnes, m. Walter Bell, Hotts, 79.
- Andrew, "Goose-driver," 52.
- Archibald, Ecclefechan, 73.
- Blanche, Middlebie, 9.

- BELL, Blanche, wife of Wm. of Blackethouse, 30.  
 — Charles D., Surgeon-General, 4.  
 — David, "the Young King," 2.  
 — David of The Bog, 11.  
 — Frances, m. Walter Bell of Dockenflat, 24.  
 — Francie, and Umphra, his br., 28.  
 — George, "called Crowdie," m. Isobel Giffert, and children, 54.  
 — George, Notary, 73.  
 — Gilbert le fitz (1304), 5.  
 — Isobel, m. Geo. Bell of Godsbrig, 35.  
 — Jean, m. Wm. Bell of Satur, 22.  
 — John (1335), 5.  
 — John ("Bloody Bell"), 8.  
 — John, Glasgow (1638), 85.  
     1. James.  
     2. Patrick.  
     3. Sir John, 85, 86.  
 — John, m. Elizabeth Bell of Stockbrig, 72.  
 — Mathie, "the King," 28.  
 — Rany (1583), and John, br., 28.  
 — Ritchard, Clerk to West Marches, 10.  
 — Ritchie (1581), 28.  
 — Robert, Notary, 39, 60.  
 — Robert, Glasgow, 86; Rev. Robert (Crailing), son, 86.  
 — Sibill, m. Fergus Graham, 17.  
 — Sibella, m. Wm. Bell, Hotts, 78.  
 — Thomas (1304), 5.  
 — Thomas, Minister, Middlebie, 37, (?) 52, 72; Walter, son, 72.  
 — Thomas (Rammerscales), 84.  
 — Thomas Wm. (Ireland), 86.  
 — Umphra of the Ban; John, son, 28.  
 — Wattie (1583), 27.  
 — Wattie, "the Budyell," 28.  
 — Walter, "callit of Satur," 32.  
 — Walter, Writer, 73.  
 — William (1335), 5.  
 — William, Rev. (Campsie), 84.  
 BELL-IRVING of Milkbank and Whitehill, William, 81.  
 BELL MACDONALD (see Bell of Rammerscales).  
 BILE, Wm. Le, 5, 15.  
 BLACKLOCH in Albie, Thomas, m. Margt. Bell, 20, 21.  
     1. John (below).  
     2. Jean.  
     3. Robert, 20, 21.  
 — of — John, 20, 21, 81.  
 BLAIR of Potterflats, Bryce, m. Isabella Bell, Blackethouse, 36.  
 BOWES, William, 29.  
 BOYLE FAMILY, 86.  
 BROWN, Rev. Wm., 67.  
 BRUCE of Airth, Alexander, 37.

BURNIE, —, Moffat, m. Margt. Jardine.

BURNS, Robert, 67, 68.

BUCCLEUCH, Laird of (1596), 29.

—— Duke of, 66.

CARLYLE, James Lord, 11 ; Michael, his bro., 11.

—— of Brackenquhat, James, m. Jean Bell (Godsbrig), 14.

—— Brydekirk, Adam, m. Sibella Bell, Crowdieknowe, 57.

1. Sibella, dr., m. John Reid, 57.

2. ——— m. George Douglas, 57.

—— ——— Wm. Currie, 35.

—— of New Park, John, m. Mary Bell (Godsbrig), 40.

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